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Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXIII, Issue No. 59

MONDAY MARCH 25, 2013

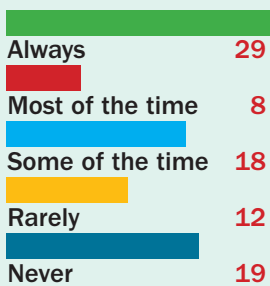
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Sunday, March 24, 2013

I N S I D E

BUSINESS



Ka-ching! The cash register may be on its final sale. ➤ **PAGE 15**

HEALTH & FITNESS



The flu season has killed 105 children so far. ➤ **PAGE 18**

LIFE & STYLE



Johnny Depp and Kristen Stewart win at the Kids Choice Awards. ➤ **PAGE 20**

NMI's WIC program spared from 'sequestration' PAGE 3 Guam Consulate outreach draws hundreds on first day. PAGE 6

NMI marks 37 years of political relationship with US

» 'Pushback needed to burnish fading knowledge of the Covenant'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas marked yesterday the 37th year of its political relationship with the United States, but Gov. Eloy S. Inos and other officials said more needs to be done to increase awareness,

Gov. Eloy S. Inos cuts a piece of a celebratory cake at the Covenant Day festivities at Minatchom Atdao pavilion in Susupe yesterday. This year's Covenant Day marks the 37th year of the Northern Mariana Islands' political relationship with the United States.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



especially among the youth, of the significance of the Covenant that also paved the way for Northern Marianas residents to become U.S. citizens.

U.S. President Gerald Ford signed on March 24, 1976, a joint congressional resolution approving a mutually negotiated "Covenant to Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States."

See NMI on Page 4

Bones of WWII soldiers recovered

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Miyuki Toyoshima, 49, lost her grandfather in 1942 in the New Guinea campaign, one of the major military campaigns of World War II from 1942 to 1945, and his body never made it home to Japan. Almost seven decades later, Toyoshima found herself volunteering at least two weeks a year to help recover the bones of thousands of Japanese soldiers who perished in the CNMI, Guam, the Philippines, and other parts of the world and repatriate their ashes to Japan, including two of three recovered in an area in Achugao on Saipan last week.

See BONES on Page 4



Visiting Japanese volunteers, mostly from Kuentai Group, take stock Saturday afternoon of the human bones and other memorabilia believed to belong to two World War II Japanese soldiers, recovered last week from Achugao in Saipan. Japanese volunteers also recovered a third set of human bones believed to be of an American soldier, prompting the arrival to Saipan of a team from the Hawaii-based U.S. Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command during the weekend.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Fitial, Buckingham signed off on a nuclear energy 'pre-deal'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Two months before signing off on a sole-source \$190.8-million diesel power purchase agreement for 25 years with Saipan Development LLC on Aug. 3, 2012,

» Inos admin reviews newly surfaced document

former governor Benigno R. Fitial and then attorney general Edward Buckingham signed a preliminary deal with another firm for a 50-megawatt safe nuclear energy production plant, subject to certain conditions such as financing
See FITIAL on Page 4

'If Ayuyu is convicted, Quitugua will take his seat'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

If Sen. Juan M. Ayuyu (R-Rota) is convicted, Joey Anthony Quitugua (Ind-Rota) will take over the vacant Senate seat—if he is still willing to serve, according to an opinion issued by Attorney General

In an opinion issued on March 5, 2013, San Nicolas said a vacancy in the Senate is filled by appointing the unsuccessful candidate from the last election who received the highest number of votes for that particular office and not by the unsuccessful candidate from the most recent election.

See AYUYU on Page 4

RELATED NEWS

➤ Tentative ruling disqualifies law firm as counsel for Ayuyu.
PAGE 13



360 exhibit showcases the beauty of the Marianas

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
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REPORTER

The 360 Revolving Restaurant hosted for the first time a photography exhibit that mostly showcases the beauty of the Northern Mariana Islands and its many facets.

Dozens of snapshots taken by six artists are featured in the exhibit, which had its opening reception at the Susupe restaurant last Friday.

The only revolving restaurant an island has been a known supporter of the arts, having presented previously exhibits fea-

turing paintings of local artists such as Greg Elliott and Ashley Moffatt.

"We were thinking that because we have nice photographers on island, why not have an exhibit for them?" said Eric Van der Maas, owner of the Marianas Business Plaza where

the 360 Revolving Restaurant is located.

Van der Maas' idea proved to be spot on, says Rod R. Ormopia, 360's sales and marketing. "The photos can be landscape or nocturnal...it's really up to the artist what they want to feature," he said.

The artists that made it to the inaugural exhibit were Racquel "On da Raks" Bagnol, Hervin "Misternurze" Jacinto, Donna Pastula, Dr. Mark Robertson, Brad Ruzsala, and Elitza Stoilova.

Stoilova, general manager at Marianas Trekking Saipan, said she got into photography in col-

lege when she took up photojournalism classes as part of her coursework in journalism.

She recounted taking black and white film photos, which she developed in the university's dark room.

"I was taking photos for my-

See 360 on Page 4

Two MHS students win Marianas Next Top Model

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
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REPORTER

Two junior Marianas High School students were crowned the 2013 Marianas Next Top Model at a packed Hard Rock Café Saipan Saturday evening.

John John Capuyon and Jacqueline Maglonzo outshone their opponents in the male and female categories, respectively, to clinch the title in the modeling competition running on its third year.

Capuyon and Maglonzo each won \$100 in cash and an IT&E cellular phone.

Capuyon said it was his first time to join such a contest and was surprised to win over 11 other hopefuls. The 16-year-old also bagged the Look of the Year and the Best in Formal Wear awards.

"I learned to be confident through this contest and I want to thank my parents for their support," said Capuyon, the middle child of John and Leah Capuyon from Koblerville.

Maglonzo, meanwhile, expected to capture the Best in

Catwalk and to be a runner up, but not the 2013 Marianas Next Top Model title.

"It's my confidence and smile, plus the support of the people from the crowd, that made me win the contest," Maglonzo told *Saipan Tribune*.

Maglonzo, who has designed costumes for Friends of the Arts plays, said becoming a professional model has crossed her mind, although her lifelong dream is to be a fashion designer.

"I'd like to thank everyone who cheered me on and supported me in this competition," added the Garapan resident.

Other winners were Justin Loza and Maricris Zapanta, 1st runner up; Rovil Florencio and Charlene Beceril, 2nd runner up; Taiga Yatsui and Diane Pangelinan, 3rd runner up; and Richard Pizzaro and Christine Ann Esteves, 4th runner up.

Winners of special awards included Gabriel Paulo Reyes and Khara Atalig, Star of the Night; Rovil Florencio and Jasmin Karen Espina, Most Face-



CLARISSA V. DAVID

The winners of the 2013 Marianas Next Top Model last Saturday at Hard Rock Cafe Saipan.

book Likes; Kendru Cepeda and Charlene Beceril, Most Photogenic; Taiga Yatsui and Lorraine Ann Divino, Charity Award; John John Capuyon and Joy Aglubat, Look of the Year; John Oliver Santos and Joy

Aglubat, Congeniality Award; Karl Louie Lacanilao and Jacqueline Maglonzo, Best in Catwalk; Jun Christopher Fidelino and Abegail Nasangas, Darling of the Crowd; and Justin Loza and Khara Atalig, Best in Re-

cycle Wear.

Event organizer Sharmaine Casquero said their two-month preparation paid off because of the successful turnout, thanks to the support and efforts of the many sponsors, including Wines

& Spirits, the parents of candidates, and the rest of the audience.

Casquero said all candidates will take part in the upcoming Trash in Fashion Show on April 23 in celebration of Environmental Awareness Month.



A weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority
Tourism is everybody's business.

5th Saipan International Open Water Flipper Race Tournament

With the trio of March events under its belt – Saipan Marathon, XTERRA Saipan Champion-

ship, and Tagaman Triathlon—the Marianas Visitors Authority now turns its attention to its next big sporting event: the 5th Saipan International Open Water Flipper Race on June 15, 2013.

The 1.5km race circles Managaha, the Northern Marianas icon that has won numerous awards in Japan for its excellent beach and snorkeling and diving conditions.

Fliers and posters are currently being distributed in Japan through main sponsor



Central Sports and via other outlets. The MVA is also soliciting sponsors for the event.



For more information or for a registration form, visit www.mymarianas.com under the event date.

Local

NMI's WIC program spared from 'sequestration'

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

The CNMI's Women, Infants and Children program has been spared, for now, from the impact of the automatic cuts, or sequestration, enforced at the national

level, according to CNMI WIC program administrator Carmen C. Cabrera.

She assured that WIC benefits will continue to be provided to eligible clients.

The program is fully funded by the federal government.

"The CNMI WIC program may not be adversely affected by sequestration as the U.S. Senate appropriation bill provides \$6.9 billion funding for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children that is sig-

nificantly higher than the [fiscal year] 2012 enacted appropriation. This amount is intended to fully fund WIC participation," said Cabrera, referring to the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act of 2013.

She disclosed that the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service, which funds the WIC program, may also provide additional funds to meet estimated participation caseload through other available FNS funding sources.

According to Cabrera, the program received \$5.5 million in fiscal year 2012 (\$3.9 million for food funds and \$1.6 million for nutrition service administration).

The CNMI was also granted a three-year funding in fiscal

year 2011 to support the WIC Breastfeeding Peer Counseling Program, totaling \$55,445. This funding supplements the CNMI WIC program's efforts to provide breastfeeding promotion and support to eligible WIC participants.

Fiscal year 2013, Cabrera said, is currently funded under continuing resolution based on prior year base grants.

Decline in participants

Cabrera disclosed a 4.2-percent decline in the number of WIC program participants.

In fiscal year 2012, the average monthly participation was 4,428, a bit higher compared to the 4,242 recorded in fiscal year 2013.

Factors behind the decrease are as yet unknown pending the completion of data assessment.

"CNMI WIC average participation from FY 2012 to FY 2013 through February 2013 declined by 4.2 percent and the program is currently conducting an analysis of data sources to determine what may be the major contributing factors for the decline in participation," said Cabrera.

Records released by the Commonwealth Healthcare

See WIC on Page 4

Inos backs revisiting QC program to make it 'more stable'

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
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REPORTER

Gov. Eloy S. Inos on Thursday asserted the need to revisit the qualifying certificate program and make it "more stable."

As Inos weighed in on the issue, he noted how existing local businesses would benefit from the economic activities that would be generated by potential investors in the Commonwealth.

The QC program offers tax breaks to qualified investors as a means to stimulate economic growth and development. It allows tax rebates or abatements of up to 100 percent for 25 years and is administered by the Commonwealth Development Authority, which recommends to the governor the approval or rejection of a QC application.

Inos said Thursday that the QC program is "based on negotiations" that should be made more stable by identifying certain types of businesses or industries that can benefit from the program, the type of tax relief to be extended, and the ensuing terms and conditions for the developer.

"We can take this package and bring it out to investors and that when they come in, this is what we can give you. For this type of business, we can give you tax relief for this type of tax and for how long. So it's certain. We don't need to go back and continue to negotiate," he said.

Inos confirmed receiving the QC application of Saipan Surfrider, LLC, which proposes to build a 60-room, \$12.1-million Surfrider Resort Spa & Beach Club at the former Pacific Gardenia and the Silver Hotel in Chalan Kanoa. The CDA board and management recommended the approval of a "limited" QC for the project developer.

"I haven't reviewed the application but it's been vetted through the CDA process. Whatever I have there is a result of the CDA review process. It was extensively reviewed and went through the public hearings that were conducted," said the governor, adding that the application was forwarded to the Attorney General's Office for review.

According to Inos, he is looking at providing tax incentives for investors who want to come in and propose development projects that are in line with the government's top priorities, on

top of which are projects within the hospitality industry.

"We need additional rooms so we need to package the QC that would make the investment feasible and attractive," he said.

When asked about his view regarding existing businesses that oppose the QC program, Inos said he applauds the efforts of these businesses for weathering the good and bad times.

"But they, too, need an increase in revenue base in the economy. They, too, will benefit when we bring new investments in," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Inos cautioned that the CNMI will have a "stagnant" economy if it will only rely on existing

businesses, adding that the government needs to protect and help existing businesses as well.

"But one way to help them is improve their posture in the economic realm by getting more investors in so that more money can be spent within the economy. Through that, they will get the benefit from the QC program," said Inos.

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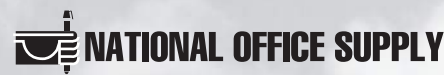
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To register or for more information, please contact Glenda P. Cabrera via email at glendacabrera@deloitte.com or Cassandra S. Palacios at capalacios@deloitte.com or via phone at 670-322-7337

NMI

From Page 1

Covenant Day, a legal holiday in the CNMI, brought together community members yesterday to the Minatchom Atdao pavilion in Susupe.

"It's a shame not too many folks, especially the younger ones, really understand this day, the meaning of Covenant Day... So I ask all of our citizens to take a moment and reflect a little bit on the Covenant, think about how we got this far and it's a major, major change from the Trust Territory administration... We have some form of self-government under this arrangement, that's something we should be proud of. We can make our own laws internally and execute them and implement them," Inos said.

The governor said the CNMI

should also be proud of itself for not succumbing to crises such as that in Cyprus or Greece.

Vince P. Cepeda, 21, admits not knowing much about Covenant Day other than the gathering itself. Other young people at the event were on the same boat as Cepeda, knowing little about the significance of this holiday.

Today is a no-work day for government offices because of yesterday's Covenant Day, which this year fell on a Sunday.

Inos and former speaker Oscar M. Babauta, the master of ceremony at yesterday's gathering, honored the members of the Marinas Political Status Commission, which negotiated the Covenant with their U.S. counterparts.

"Our [Covenant] negotiators ought to be congratulated for really thinking ahead and have the vision... It's not the best necessarily but there's still other

jurisdictions that are jealous of our relationship with the U.S.," Inos added.

Pete A. Tenorio, the governor's senior policy adviser and a member of the Marianas Political Status Commission that negotiated the Covenant, said it is the Covenant that gave the Commonwealth a government "that is based on democracy just like the United States."

Inos invited Tenorio to speak about the significance of Covenant Day, which is a reaffirmation of the CNMI's commitment to the Covenant's promise of a meaningful local self-government and a higher standard of living through economic growth and development.

House floor leader Ralph Demapan (Cov-Saipan) said this day "makes us who we are today," referring to the U.S. citizenship granted to NMI residents.

BONES

From Page 1

"I hope and pray everyone gets home," Toyoshima, of Osaka, told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview at the recovery site Saturday afternoon.

The retrieval is being led by the Japanese nonprofit organization Kuentai Group, which has been carrying out recovery missions for years in cooperation with the Japanese government.

A third set of bones retrieved by the Japanese volunteers is believed to be that of an American soldier who was on Saipan during World War II.

This prompted Saturday night's arrival of a team from the Hawaii-based U.S. Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command, or JPAC, whose mission is to search for the fullest possible accounting of the more than 83,000 Americans still missing from past conflicts.

The JPAC team started its own investigation yesterday at the site. If the bones are confirmed to be that of an American soldier, it could trigger another U.S. recovery mission on Saipan where heavy battles took place between American and Japanese forces during the war.

The Battle of Saipan, a battle of the Pacific campaign of World War II, was fought from June 15 to July 9, 1944.

Among the items found in the Achugao area last week were U.S. military dog tags, a school ring purportedly bearing the year 1939 and American coins.

Kuentai Group is accompanied on Saipan by three representatives from Japan's Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare, and three from Japan Youth Memorial Association, to which Toyoshima, a gardener, belongs.

Hiyori Toba, of Kuentai Group, said there are still a lot of bones to be recovered and repatriated almost 70 years after the war.

"I'm very happy to be part of this recovery," Toba said in an interview Thursday afternoon at the project site in Achugao.

Randy Harper of the Saipan-based Swift & Harper Archaeological Resource Consulting said there have been at least 738 remains of Japanese soldiers recovered in the last few years as part of Japan's recovery missions in the CNMI.

Of the estimated more than 30,000 Japanese soldiers who perished in the CNMI, only about half of their remains have been recovered. An untold number of Japanese civilians also lost their lives on Saipan during the war, including those who committed suicide by jumping off the cliffs near Marpi Point.

American casualties were

also heavy, estimated at some 15,000.

Usan Kurata, also of Kuentai Group, said he is honored to be a part of efforts to send home the remains of these Japanese soldiers.

The Japanese groups recovered the first set of bones belonging to a Japanese soldier on Wednesday, volunteers at the site said.

The following day, they recovered bones they believed to be that of an American soldier, with military boots still on its left foot, along with two U.S. military dog tags, a school ring, and American coins. With these discovery, Kuentai Group had to communicate with the U.S. JPAC to further investigate the bones and belongings.

On Friday, the third set of bones of a Japanese soldier was also found.

The bones of Japanese soldiers are scheduled to be cremated today and the ashes will be repatriated to Japan, Kurato and other Japanese volunteers said.

Kurato said the ashes will be brought to the Chidorigafuchi National Cemetery in Tokyo.

Toba and Kurato said Kuentai Group has also retrieved in the last seven years some 15,000 remains of the estimated 512,000 Japanese soldiers believed to have died in the Philippines during World War II.

ing a simple camera and try to have it take a photo of what my eyes can actually see," said Stoilova, whose favorite scenic shots are taken on Beach Road during daylight or sunset.

She praised 360 Revolving Restaurant for giving local artists the opportunity to share their talent and skills with the public.

"It's a great social event and I encourage them to do it more often," added Stoilova who sold at least three of her photographs during Friday's event.

Ornopia said each of the photograph on display shows details such as the name of the artist and his/her contact information,

the title and corresponding price of the artwork so that interested buyers can communicate with them directly.

"There's a lot of people who are really interested in joining so we're thinking of doing another one. To all photographers, just keep honing your talents," said Ornopia.

The exhibit will run for about a month and can be viewed at the 360 Revolving Restaurant, which is open during lunch time Monday to Friday from 11am to 2pm and at dinner time Monday to Saturday from 5pm to 9pm.

For more information, call 234-3600 or 1610 or email rod@360saipan.com.

AYUYU

From Page 1

"For the Senate vacancy in question, since that Senate office was filled pursuant to an election in 2009, the unsuccessful candidate who received the largest votes from the 2009 election and who is willing to serve must be appointed by the governor to fill the vacancy," San Nicolas said.

The Commonwealth Election Commission's official 2009 general election results show that of the six candidates for Rota Senate seats, Quitugua obtained 489 votes behind Ayuyu who got 544 votes. Jovita M. Taimanao was first with 578 votes.

Ayuyu is facing three separate

criminal cases. His term expires in January 2015.

San Nicolas said that Article 2, Section 9 of the CNMI Constitution reads that when "less than one-half of the term remains, the governor shall fill the vacancy by appointing the unsuccessful candidate for the office in the last election who received the largest number of votes and is willing to serve..."

San Nicolas said this language does not clearly state what shall occur when the vacated Senate office was up for election in the previous election cycle instead of the most recent election cycle.

The AG said the materials accompanying the First Constitutional Convention do not directly address this issue, but they

do create a presumption that the runner-up will be the appointed individual.

"A person must run in an election and lost to be considered a runner-up. Canons of construction, however, do provide a definitive answer. In interpreting the language of Section 9, all of its words must be given effect," he said.

San Nicolas added that when Article 2 is read as a whole, Senate offices are elected on different election cycles and the particular election for a given Senate office is not necessarily the last or most recent election.

"Applying these principles of construction in conjunction with the Constitutional Convention materials makes it clear who must be appointed," he said.

FITIAL

From Page 1

and regulatory approval of the technology.

This document appeared only last week on the desk of Gov. Eloy S. Inos, who assumed his post on Feb. 20 when Fitial resigned days before the start of his impeachment trial at the Senate.

Inos confirmed yesterday that Fitial and Buckingham, along with Global Energy Corp., signed off on the document in June 2012.

"We are going to review it," Inos said in an interview with *Saipan Tribune* and KSPN 2 at yesterday's Covenant Day celebration at the Minatchom Atdao pavilion in Susupe.

He said the document will be forwarded to the Office of the Attorney General for review.

Inos wants the OAG to determine whether the CNMI has a liability or obligation to fulfill under the document that the former governor and former AG signed.

"From my initial review, it doesn't look like it's a firm contract. It was essentially memorialization of a desire of the Commonwealth government to avail of that technology but there are conditions precedent to entering into that contract like securing financing and studies, approval of the technology which has yet to be approved, and so forth... It's long ways from being a contract that can be executed in terms of the provisions but it is interesting that we have that," Inos said.

The Inos administration said a study will be done on the integration of alternative or renewable energy into the existing Commonwealth Utilities Corp. power grid.

The new, patent-pending, nuclear energy technology that

GEC presented to the CNMI administration and Legislature last year is based on fusion and fast fission. It uses (fertile) Uranium 238 and not the (fissile) Uranium 235 of conventional nuclear technology. Uranium 238 is plentiful in nature and in non-radioactive nuclear waste.

House Vice Speaker Frank Dela Cruz (IR-Saipan) said over the weekend that the nuclear energy document is a "pre-agreement that will lead to a PPA subject to meeting the requirements as set forth."

House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (IR-Saipan) also said in his view the document "does not bind the CNMI to anything."

For one, the technology proposed has yet to be approved by the appropriate federal regulatory agency.

A month before Fitial and Buckingham signed the pre-agreement document last year, then CUC executive director Abe Malae, CUC deputy director for electric power system Wallon Young, and Dela Cruz made recommendations to Fitial after they returned from GEC presentations in California about this particular nuclear energy production.

Malae, Young, and Dela Cruz recommended that CUC sign a commitment letter to allow Global Energy Corp. "to shop for financing for a 50-megawatt plant" estimated at \$250 million.

Fusion and fast fission nuclear reactions do not involve any chain reaction, and so can be stopped in a straightforward manner without danger of runaway core meltdown. There are no dangerous or potentially dangerous waste products and cooling is done using helium instead of water, they said.

Fitial and Buckingham signed off on the nuclear energy document around the time GEC

scientists and officials, including CEO Dr. Jay W. Khim, visited Saipan.

Inos said yesterday that Fitial may also just be trying to find ways to lower the cost of power, including tapping renewable or alternative energy.

"I just hope that this latest document does not create any kind of liability to the CNMI government, any obligation at all.... Again my initial review of the document, it doesn't look like there is any contractual obligation on the part of the CNMI government but you know I'm gonna have to leave it up to the attorneys to tell me if there is," the governor added.

The nuclear energy document signing was done two months before Fitial and Buckingham signed on Aug. 3, 2012, a PPA with SDLLC for a 50-MW diesel generated power plant in Lower Base.

Around August 2012, *Saipan Tribune* started inquiring with the Fitial administration about the nuclear energy agreement but nothing came out of the inquiry until the document surfaced last week.

If and when the two agreements materialize and are pursued in their current form, the Fitial administration would have committed CNMI taxpayers to a total of 100MW of diesel and nuclear power.

Fitial was impeached by the House of Representatives on 18 charges of corruption, felony and neglect of duty related to a host of issues including his signing of the PPA with SDLLC, which is also now in the court.

Should the CNMI pursue the safe nuclear energy pre-agreement, the next step after shopping for financing would be to negotiate a rate that is close to 15 cents per kilowatt-hour, under a build-own-operate transfer arrangement over a 20-year period.

According to Cabrera, it is also important to note that participation also declined in the other states.

The average monthly participation at the national level is 8,907,627 in fiscal year 2012; fiscal year 2013 state projected average monthly participation is 8,861,328.

360

From Page 2

self and not for anyone else. But since coming to Saipan in 2000 and being involved in the travel industry, I started taking photos with the idea of sharing the beauty of Saipan to those who haven't been here," she said.

All 11 photos Stoilova put on display at the exhibit were taken using her Samsung Galaxy phone. Except for one photo that was taken in her home village in Bulgaria, all photos show different areas and things about Saipan.

"I love the challenge of work-

WIC

From Page 3

Corp.'s "The Pulse" shows the breakdown of FY 2012 participants in the WIC program: pregnant women, 393; breastfeeding women, 253; postpartum women, 196; infants, 721;

and children, 2,865.

For FY 2013, from October 2012 through January 2013, records show that there were 348 pregnant women under the program; 242 are breastfeeding women; 216 are postpartum women; infants are 708; and children are 2,756.

Fletcher lays out plans to upgrade CUC services

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Fresh with a new two-year contract, Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Alan Fletcher described yesterday the renewal of his contract as an honor and vowed to do his best to attain the progress needed by the islands' utility systems.

"I am honored with the renewal and sincerely appreciate the confidence that Gov. Inos has in me and the entire team at CUC. The exciting part is that I will continue to work with the great people at CUC in bringing reliable services to

the people of CNMI," he told *Saipan Tribune*. Fletcher is currently attending the Pacific Energy Summit off island.

Fletcher's original two-year contract at CUC expired on Feb. 28 after former governor Benigno R. Fitial did not renew his contract. On Fletcher's last day, Fitial stepped down from the post and was succeeded that same day by Eloy S. Inos, the former lieutenant governor. Fletcher's contract was among the first major items the new governor acted upon, extending Fletcher's stay for 30 more days, or until March 22. Last Thursday, the governor decided to re-

new Fletcher's original contract for two more years. With CUC still lacking an executive director at CUC, Fletcher will also serve the position until a permanent executive is named.

In the two years he has been with CUC, Fletcher says that they have overcome many obstacles and accomplished a lot for CUC, especially with funding. He said they still have a lot to do with major infrastructure replacements.

"These replacements and renewals are the key to obtaining sustainable 24-hour water service, lowering our energy costs by reducing leakage and

by installing more energy efficient pumps and motors," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

On the power side, Fletcher disclosed that CUC is upgrading its fragile transmission and distribution system, which has lacked major investments due to CUC's cash crunch.

"In power generation, Mr. Wallon Young will be completing major overhauls and installing new cooling systems at Power Plant 1 that will ensure reliable service for years to come. Additional benefit in our investments are increased efficiencies in kWh per gallon, which puts CUC ahead of the curve for diesel generation efficiency," he added.

Fletcher said that they continue to work on alternative energy projects to reduce dependency on fossil fuels. "While there is no magic solution to our current costs of service, every increment of base load that we can switch to non-fossil fuel generation reduces the effects of volatility in the oil markets. It is the right move for the long term," he added.

Jury finds sex predator not guilty of 2 sexual crimes

A Superior Court jury on Thursday found Anthony Peter Rios not guilty of charges that he touched the genitals of a teenage girl in two separate incidents.

The jurors reached a unanimous not guilty verdict on two counts of sexual assault in the second degree.

But Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho, who decided on the misdemeanor charges, found the 38-year-old Rios guilty of one count of assault and battery and one count of disturbing the peace.

The judge, however, found the defendant not guilty of one count of assault and battery and one count of disturbing the peace.

The Office of the Attorney

General had charged Rios with one count of sexual assault in the second degree for allegedly entering the bedroom of a sleeping teenage girl and touching her genitals in December 2011.

The OAG charged Rios with another count of sexual assault in the second degree for allegedly inappropriately touching the same victim while teaching her how to swim at a beach on June 11, 2012. At the time, the girl was just 17 years old.

The misdemeanor charges arose from the two incidents. The judge found Rios guilty in the June 11 incident.

Defense counsel Joaquin Torres served as counsel for Rios. Assistant attorneys general

Chemere K. McField and Shelli Neal prosecuted the case.

No sentencing date has been set yet. Presiding Judge Robert Naraja is expected to assign a new judge for the sentencing.

In 1997, Rios pleaded guilty to repeatedly raping and molesting three minors. After serving just five years, he was freed in 2003. Five months after being released, he was again arrested for sexual crimes.

After serving five years in prison, Rios was released. Three years later, he was again arrested for entering a public restroom for women and for entering a teen's bedroom and allegedly fondling her while she was asleep. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

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First Guam Consulate outreach draws hundreds on first day

» **Mobile consular services available until Tuesday**

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Hundreds of Filipinos in the Commonwealth availed of mobile consular services provided by the Philippine Consulate General in Agana, its first outreach in the CNMI since the closure of the Saipan Consulate General in 2012.

A five-member team led by Consul Maria Paz G. Cortes arrived Thursday evening to conduct the mobile services that began at 9am Saturday at the Mount Carmel School grounds. The venue was moved yesterday to the Joeten-Daidai Social Hall in the adjacent Mount Carmel Cathedral, where it will be



CLARISSA V. DAVID
Members of the United Filipino Organization assist the Philippine Consulate General in Agana during its first outreach to the Commonwealth at the Joeten-Daidai Social Hall on Saturday.

of the volume of services we need to provide to our *kabayans* on Saipan," Cortes told *Saipan Tribune*.

While the visiting consular team was able to streamline the process for their Filipino clients, Cortes said they are uncertain if they would be able to accommodate those who do not have scheduled appointments.

Besides passport applications, other services provided during the mobile consular event are notariats, authentication, civil registry, and passport releasing for applicants who processed their travel documents prior to the closure of the Saipan consulate.

Cortes said the Guam consulate can recommend to the Department of Foreign Affairs Manila office another consular outreach event as soon as possible if there still be a big demand on their last day.

She noted that the Guam consulate's ability to provide services rests not just on demand but also on other factors, including authority and resources.

The United Filipino Organization, the umbrella network of Filipino groups in the CNMI,

is assisting the Guam consulate team while on island. UFO officials and members provide assistance on membership renewal with the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration, the information for which came directly from former Welfare officer Julia Fabian.

According to Cortes, the Guam Consulate is not authorized to process OWWA or Philippine Overseas Labor Office matters. She said they have been requesting for the reopening of the POLO/OWWA office in Guam even prior to the closure of the Saipan consulate last year.

Cortes said the U.S. State Department granted them the authority around 2011. "We forwarded that to the Department of Labor in Manila and they were supposed to send a labor attaché but it didn't push through. Now it's up to them to send a representative."

She said the schedule for the next mobile consular services on island, as well as those on Tinian and Rota, will be announced once finalized.

Cortes thanked UFO, Mount Carmel School, and the Cathedral for their assistance in making the event possible for Filipinos on island.

For more information, visit www.philippinesguam.org, Agana pcg Facebook page, email pcgagana@gmail.com or call 682-2222.

held until the event's conclusion on Tuesday.

As of noon time on that day, about 235 walk-in applicants for passport applications were assigned a schedule throughout the four-day consular outreach, while some 180 applicants whose passports were pre-processed before the event were served.

Cortes said in an interview Saturday that the large crowd of Filipino nationals who flocked to the venue was just as they have anticipated.

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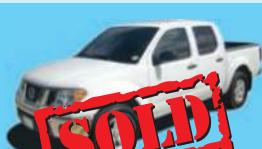
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CNMI Water Task Force INVITATION FOR BIDS

IFB13-GOV-087

Security Services for Water Task Force Warehouse

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Jude U. Hofschneider, through the Water Task Force, are soliciting sealed Bids for Security Services for the Water Task Force Warehouse on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project Scope of Work will be available at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, on or after **March 11, 2013**.

This project is funded by a grant from the Office of Insular Affairs (OIA), Department of the Interior. The award of this contract is contingent upon receipt of the project approval from OIA. The Contractor is required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal laws including the Davis Bacon Act.

A mandatory Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled for **10:00 a.m.**, local time, **March 22, 2013**, at the CNMI Water Task Force Conference Room, 1316 Anatahan Dr., Capitol Hill, Saipan.

All questions regarding this IFB must be submitted in writing no later than **4:30 pm, March 21, 2013**, to Mr. Pedro Sasamoto, WTF Program Manager, facsimile number (670) 664-2279.

Bids must be sealed and marked "IFB13-GOV-087". For bidders within the CNMI, one (1) original and four (4) copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than **2:00 p.m.**, local time, **April 10, 2013**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bid by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than **2:00 p.m.**, local time, **April 10, 2013**, and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515. For bidders located outside the CNMI, one (1) original and four (4) copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **April 10, 2013**, and must be received no later than **April 19, 2013**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly open and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 3:00 pm local time, **April 22, 2013**. However, if no Notices of Intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 3:00 pm local time on **April 10, 2013**.

The bid procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations. Preference is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funds for this project.

The CNMI reserves the right to reject any or all Bids and to waive any imperfections in any bid if to do so will be in the best interest of the CNMI. All Bids shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/s/ ELOY S. INOS
Governor

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, Procurement & Supply

Zoning board convenes meeting after resignations

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The directors of the Commonwealth Zoning Board held their monthly meeting Thursday after submitting courtesy resignation letters to Gov. Eloy S. Inos.

Board chair Diego C. Blanco was the first to submit his letter on March 1, over a week after Inos and Lt. Gov. Jude Hofschneider were sworn into office following the resignation of former governor Benigno R. Fitial.

In his letter, Blanco touted the many improvements the agency has implemented throughout Saipan. He asked for the new governor to continue the efforts to improve the island's image through orderly land developments, enhancement of property values, and aesthetically pleas-

ing surroundings.

"The zoning program, although was perceived unpopular during its initial stage, had eventually began to prove its benefits to our communities, businesses, residents, and visitors as well," said Blanco.

Blanco also asked Inos to sign into law the proposed Saipan Zoning Law of 2013. "Without an improved law, it will be very difficult to achieve successful implementation of the program's numerous improvements for the benefit of the general public."

After Blanco, board vice chair Herman P. Sablan and secretary Gus M. Kaipat both tendered their resignation letters on March 6, while Bruce A. Bateman handed in his letter the next day. All three expressed their well wishes

to the new administration.

Member Natalie Mable Ayuyu, meanwhile, submitted her resignation letter only last week as she was off-island. Only treasurer Alice S. Igitol has yet to tender her letter.

The five convened a meeting on March 21, during which Zoning administrator Therese T. Ogumoro said the governor still has not made a decision on the courtesy resignations.

Ogumoro informed the board that the office has asked Inos to consider their request to hire Dwayne Duenas for the position of enforcement officer to boost the agency's enforcement activities.

Inos issued a March 15 directive that partially lifted the hiring freeze he implemented two days after taking his oath of office.

Man in birth tourism scheme gets 9 months in jail

The federal court on Wednesday slapped a nine-month prison term against a man tagged by federal agents as behind a scheme to encourage Chinese nationals to come to Saipan to give birth to U.S. citizen children.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood gave Kuanyi Chen credit of 197 days for time served.

Upon completing his sentence, Chen will be placed on supervised release for three years.

Among the conditions of supervised release is that he will be turned over to immigration officials for deportation.

Chen will be required to perform 100 hours of community service and pay a \$100 special assessment fee.

The judge forfeited Chen's \$2,020 in favor of the U.S. government.

Assistant U.S. attorney Rami Badawy prosecuted the case. Chen was represented by lawyer Mark Hanson.

The indictment charged Chen, also known as Pangzi, with five counts of encouraging illegal entry of aliens for financial gain, five counts of harboring aliens for financial gain, and five counts of illegal transportation of aliens for financial gain.

Chen pleaded guilty to one count of harboring aliens for financial gain as part of a plea deal. The remaining charges were dropped.

Federal agents arrested the 39-year-old Chen on Aug. 25, 2012.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement special agent Michael D. Lansangan stated in his report that Chen, a citizen of Taiwan, was involved in the recruitment and facilitation of travel, housing, and other services for Chinese citizens who travel to Saipan from China for the purpose of giving birth on Saipan. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Air Force training on Farallon de Medinilla

The U.S. Air Force will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla today, March 25, from 10am to 10pm. The general public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated. The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants. *(PR)*

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The Inetnon Åmot yan Kuturan Natibu/Mwiischil Safey me Kkoor Aramasal Falúw says that ready-to-be-boiled, packaged Åmot Måkpung Åmku' yan Åmot Tininu is available at the Saipan Chamorro-Carolinian Cultural Center at 1213 on Capitol Hill Road, across the Workforce Investment Agency and next to the CNMI Board of Parole Office. A \$10 donation per package is accepted. The office hours are Monday to Friday, from 10am to 5pm. For more information, call 322-0278. *(PR)*

Saipan Community School honor roll for 3rd Quarter

6TH GRADE

■ "A" honor roll (3.50-3.99): Min Ju Kang, Ellen Lee.

■ "B" honor roll (3.00-3.49): Mimi Sakano, Annabelle Sablan, Ye Ji Yem, Ye Da Yim

7TH GRADE

■ "A" honor roll: Paul Heo, Joo Young Kim, Harry Woo.

■ "B" honor roll: Nathaniel Lim, Yun Pyo Jeon, Isaac Jang, Judy Kim, Rachel Kim.

8TH GRADE

■ Principals List: Yu Bin Park

■ "A" honor roll: Kevin Lee, Shirley Qian, Daniel Jang.

■ "B" honor roll: Maddie Santos, Elnathan Wong, Yoon Hee Kim



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SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE SERVICES FOR THE AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL TOWER (ATCT) PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-002-13 REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed proposals for Preventive Maintenance of the Air Traffic Control Tower (ATCT) at the Saipan International Airport on the Island of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Scope of Work entails providing maintenance services for a period of two (2) years for the Tower, the Base Building and its surroundings. The proposal package which includes the Scope of Work and Evaluation Factors will be available at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Building beginning Thursday, March 14, 2013. Proposers must submit all required documents listed in the scope of work. All responses to this RFP shall also take into account all costs that will be charged to the proposer awarded the contract for this project. Proposers shall also take into consideration all necessary badging requirements and fees for this project.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Proposal for the Preventive Maintenance of the Air Traffic Control Tower at the Saipan International Airport". One original and two (2) copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than 4:30 P.M. LOCAL TIME, Monday, APRIL 15, 2013, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport.

All proposals will be evaluated on the following factors: (1) price, (2) relevant experience, (3) sufficiency of workers, (4) most recent financial statement and (5) insurance requirements.

Contractor will be required to obtain insurance policies based on CPA's requirements. Copies of the insurance requirements may be obtained with the Scope of Work at the Office of the Executive Director.

A pre-proposal meeting will be held at the CPA Conference Room, 2nd Floor of the Departure Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport at 10:00 a.m. Monday, March 25, 2013 to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project which will be followed by a walk-through of the Air Traffic Control Tower facility. Questions must be in writing and faxed to the Executive Director at (670) 234-5962 or via email at cpa.admin@pticom.com at least seven (7) days prior to the pre-proposal conference.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding proposal rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

CPA assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the offer or due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of offeror's preparation of the proposal or supply under the contract. This RFP does not commit CPA to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for service.

Offerors will be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RFP and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations.

All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority. Proposals received after the aforementioned submission date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ EDWARD M. DELEON GUERRERO
Executive Director

Territorial delegates push for nutrition program

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Three delegates to a federal food and nutrition conference two weeks ago had an opportunity to explain their issues to a powerful member of the U.S. House of Representatives, thanks to a timely assist from Amata Coleman Radewagen.

The Pacific Islands were represented at the National 2013 Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program Coordinators' Meeting at Washington, D.C.'s Fairfax Hotel. Organized by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, the coordinators manage NIFA's Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program. This unique program currently operates in all 50 states and in American Samoa, Guam, Micronesia, Northern Marianas, Puerto Rico, and the



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Pacific delegates meet in Washington with House Insular Subcommittee chairman Rep. John Fleming (R-LA). From left, Patricia Coleman, NMC; Ese Tauai Misaita, ASCC; Fleming, Rebecca Fiame, ASCC; and Amata Coleman Radewagen.

Virgin Islands.

While the delegates were in Washington, American Samoa's Amata Coleman Radewagen, the senior member of the Republican National Committee, took the opportunity to introduce some of the Pacific delegates from American Samoa and the Northern Mariana Islands to U.S. Rep. John Fleming (R-LA), a medical doctor by training who did a tour of Navy service in Guam and is currently chairman of the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Fish, Wildlife, Oceans and Insular Affairs.

"This is the key House legislative subcommittee for insular affairs," explained Amata, "so I wanted these delegates to be able to have a chance to familiarize the Chairman with their issues."

"I am so happy we had this opportunity," said Ese Tauai Misaita, a member of the staff of the American Samoa Community College's Community and Natural Resources Division. "It was a real learning experience for me and I hope the chairman has a better idea of the problems we face."

American Samoa's other delegate, Rebecca T. Fiame, also a member of ASCC's Community and Natural Resources Division, said, "We are all concerned at how the sequestration and other federal budget difficulties will impact our services to the people. I am glad Dr. Fleming spent time living in the islands so he already has a good understanding."

Also involved in meeting Fleming was Patricia Coleman, who is EFNEP coordinator/

Nutrition and Health Programs team leader for the Northern Marianas College. A granddaughter of former American Samoa governor and Trust Territory Deputy High Commissioner Peter Tali Coleman, Coleman has spent considerable time in both island groups and is well versed in both cultures.

"It was particularly great to be able to bring these delegates together with Chairman Fleming," said Amata, "because he is a health professional by training and has a much more intimate familiarity with food and nutrition matters than most members of Congress. Moreover, his medical service on Guam gives him an instant appreciation of what challenges these coordinators from the islands are facing."

The conference concluded March 14. (PR)

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ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

JUAN SABLAN TORRES, : CIVIL ACTION
Plaintiff, : NO. 08-0321
-v- :
BERNADITAR MERCADO, :
Defendant. :

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to a Writ of Execution issued by the Court in this matter on February 12, 2013, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property:

Parcel One:

Lot No. 001 D 51, situated in Puntan Muchot, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 617 square meters, more or less, all as more particularly shown on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 001 D 000, the description herein being incorporated herein by reference.

Parcel Two:

Lot E.A. 693-8, situated in Chalan Piao, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 862 square meters, more or less, as more particularly bounded and described as follows:

Beginning at a corner which is designated as Corner No. 1, having plane rectangular coordinates of 47,315.65 meters North and 48,839.96 meters East of the Mariana Islands Coordinate System of 1966.

Thence N 66° 56' 09" W, 25.06 meters to Corner 2;
Thence N 23° 00' 51" E, 34.38 meters to Corner 3;
Thence S 66° 59' 09" E, 25.06 meters to Corner 4;
Thence S 23° 00' 51" W, 34.38 meters to Corner 1;
The point of beginning.

Parcel Three:

Lot No. 004 D 18 (formerly Block 2, Lot 4), situated in Garapan, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 929 square meters, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat No. 004 D 00 dated October 30, 1970, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Parcel Four:

Lot No. 004 D 19 (formerly Block 2, Lot 5) situated in Garapan, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 929 square meters, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat No. 004 D 00 dated October 30, 1970, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, April 5, 2013, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, Esq., Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 1st day of March, 2013:

/s/MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
The Law Offices Of Michael A. White, LLC
Post Office Box 5222
Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS : CIVIL ACTION
HOUSING CORPORATION, : NO. 12-0005
Plaintiff, :
-v- :
ALFONSINA M. ARJU :
and ARJU ARJU, :
Defendants. :

FIRST AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on September 10, 2012, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot No. 045 A 031, situated in As Matuis, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 1,123 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 045 A 003 dated July 12, 1989, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 93-1038, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, April 5, 2013, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 11th day of March, 2013:

/s/MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
The Law Offices Of Michael A. White, LLC
Post Office Box 5222
Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS : CIVIL ACTION
HOUSING CORPORATION, : NO. 11-0043
Plaintiff, :
-v- :
ELLEN S. PITEG, :
Defendant. :

FIRST AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on May 15, 2012, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property: Lot No. 011 G 547, situated in Kagman III, Phase I, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 800 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat No. 011 G 11, dated December 1, 1993, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 93-4179, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, April 12, 2013, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 14th day of March, 2013:

/s/MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
The Law Offices Of Michael A. White, LLC
Post Office Box 5222
Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS : CIVIL ACTION
HOUSING CORPORATION, : NO. 11-0142
Plaintiff, :
-v- :
ALBERT I. REMOKET :
and CONSOLACION I. REMOKET :
Defendants. :

FIRST AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on September 10, 2012, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot No. 002 G 59, situated in Kagman II, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 968 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 002 G 03 dated May 31, 1989, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 90-1900, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, April 12, 2013, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 14th day of March, 2013:

/s/MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Mar. 25, 2004

CUC OK's purchase of vehicles

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has decided to purchase leased vehicles for its operational use. In a special meeting Monday, the CUC board approved the management's request to approve the purchase of heavy equipment, which include about seven vehicles that have been on lease to CUC for five years. The lease contract for the vehicles had reportedly expired. "They are still in good condition," said CUC executive director Lorraine A. Babauta. In an earlier report to the board, Babauta said the agency's 2005 approved budget of \$70.2 million does not include funding for new purchases of heavy equipment and new vehicles.

Removal of Lab School threatens NMC accreditation

The abolition or transfer of the Northern Marianas College's Lab School would be questionable and a sure threat to the college's accreditation with the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, NMC acting president Tony Deleon Guerrero said. "Our accreditors are telling us, in no uncertain terms, that they saw the Lab School as an essential component of the School of Education when they granted our accreditation, that they still see it as such, and that any move to change that essential structure will be questionable at best and a threat to our accreditation at worst," said Guerrero in a recent letter to House Education Committee chair Rep. Justo S. Quitugua.

Mar. 25, 2005

CUC adopts \$83M budget

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has adopted an \$83.29-million budget for fiscal year 2006 based on projections that it would collect \$68.17 million in utility revenues and \$15.12 million in fuel surcharge fees. The CUC board of directors approved the budget with a 4-1-1 vote on Wednesday. In that meeting, the utility firm also decided to increase the fuel surcharge rate from 1.5 cents per kwh to the maximum allowed rate of 3.5 cents per kwh starting April. The utility firm would not have achieved a balanced budget without increasing the fuel surcharge fee. In the budget summary, CUC management noted that the 3.5-cent fuel surcharge would provide necessary funds to augment utility revenues.

Feds asked to review CUC-CDA debt write-off bill

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has asked the federal government to review a recently defeated bill that would write off CUC's longstanding \$45-million loan from the Commonwealth Development Authority. CUC chair Francisco Q. Guerrero wrote the March 22 letter to U.S. Interior deputy assistant secretary David Cohen in an effort to dispel concerns that the federal government might deem the debt waiver improper. "It is our understanding that one of the reasons of [the bill's] defeat was concern that the Office of Insular Affairs might consider such a waiver improper and [that the bill might] have a negative impact on OIA's relationship with the CNMI," Guerrero said.

Mar. 25, 2006

Bill banning alien workers from select positions awaits passage

The Northern Marianas Apprenticeship bill, which seeks to ban the hiring of foreign workers in certain skilled positions, is now awaiting the governor's approval. House Bill 15-27 was passed by the Legislature without an amendment. Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has 40 days to act on the bill. The measure will mandate the NMC to create an apprenticeship program and stop the hiring or renewal of foreign workers who have similar jobs as students certified under the training program. Authored by Rep. Justo Quitugua, the proposed legislation seeks to ultimately develop a skilled local workforce and reduce the Commonwealth's reliance on nonresident workers.

Quitugua insists on govt mining opportunities

Commonwealth Development Authority board chair Tom Glenn A. Quitugua maintains that direct involvement of the government in pozzolan mining will be in the best interest of the CNMI. "What I'm saying is if this government really thinks of its people, it will do the best thing. In this case, it is to go directly to the cement manufacturers," said Quitugua. Quitugua is advocating that the government not go through a middleman or a third party in mining pozzolan on Mt. Pagan. He said that, instead of allowing a middleman to do the mining and marketing of the mineral deposit, the government should sell it directly to the company that makes cement.

2013 Businesswoman of the Year gala on April 27

The eighth annual First Hawaiian Bank and *Guam Business Magazine* Businesswoman of the Year Maga'haga award program sponsored by First Hawaiian Bank and *Guam Business Magazine* will have a gala on April 27 at the Hyatt Regency Guam to announce the 2013 Businesswoman of the Year.

Proceeds from the gala will fund scholarships at the Uni-

versity of Guam, Guam Community College, and Northern Marianas College.

Since 2006, the First Hawaiian Bank and *Guam Business Magazine* Businesswoman of the Year program has awarded a total of \$138,450 in scholarships to 64 deserving students in the community.

The award program brings recognition to businesswomen who

have made significant contributions to their industries and have demonstrated a strong commitment to their community.

This year the nominees for the Maga'haga award are: J. Victoria "Vicky" Benavente, executive assistant, Pacific Islands Club Saipan; Lois Cabuhat, realtor, Coral Sea Realty; Dr. Annette David, director, Consulting Services, Health Partners LLC;

Annie G. Hayes, assistant general manager, Herman's Modern Bakery; Australiz "Lisa" Lenckowski, marketing manager, Outrigger Guam Resort; Geraldine "Geri" Leon Guerrero, president and general manager, Adztech; Beatrice P. "Tricee" Limtiaco, president,

Perez Bros. Inc.; F. Marie Calvo Monge, chief operating officer and executive producer, Pacific Telestations Inc.; and Cecilia T. Y. "Nancy" Robato, principal broker, Pacific Pearl Properties.

The Businesswoman of the Year gala will take place in conjunction with the release of the

Guam Business Magazine May/June issue, featuring a commissioned photo of the recipient on its cover.

Tickets for the gala may be purchased by contacting Nikki Manalo who can be reached at (671) 483-3637 or nikkifhb@yahoo.com.

The 2012 Businesswoman of the Year Maga'haga award recipient was Mary P. Rhodes. (**PR**)

Chamber sets tax seminar workshop



The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will conduct its annual tax workshop on March 28, 2013, from 9am to 12pm at the Chamber's offices in Garapan. The workshop is open to Chamber and non-Chamber members, although a priority will be afforded Chamber members.

Topics to be covered at the workshop are the application of FICA taxes in the CNMI and the recent congressional passage of the fiscal cliff provisions earlier this year on comprehensive and general information about the 2013 tax law changes.

This year's three-hour workshop will again be presented by the accounting and tax firms of Ernst & Young and Deloitte. Edmund Brobesong, senior tax manager for Ernst & Young, and Edgar Aguilar, tax manager for Deloitte, will be providing local and federal tax expertise at the workshop session.

Registration for the workshop is now being accepted at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce offices in Garapan. Call 233-7150 or 233-7152, or email to coordinator@saipanchamber.com, to reserve your attendance. Chamber members are entitled to one free entry, and extra seats are \$10. Non-Chamber registration is \$20. Seating is limited to

Unai Babui Beach red-flagged

The Division of Environment Quality has red-flagged the Unai Babui Beach and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of this location for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

DEQ said that samples collected from this site had excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water. Water samples were taken from 38 locations on Saipan this week.

For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. (**DEQ**)

the first 40 reserving seats.

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce, founded in 1959 and incorporated in 1976, is the largest private business organization in the Commonwealth of

the Northern Mariana Islands. The Chamber works to promote and protect business, economic and civic interests, and the general health and welfare of our islands. (**SCC**)

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
PSS HEAD START PROGRAM
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM
 P.O. BOX 501370
 SAIPAN, MP 96950

Head Start Policy Council
AGENDA

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Head Start Policy Council hereby gives notice that it will have a Regular Meeting on Thursday, March 28, 2013 at 9:00 a.m., Tanapag Head Start Resource Center, Tanapag, Saipan.

I. Preliminary Matters 1. Call to Order 2. Roll Call 3. Quorum	4. Adoption of Agenda 5. Adoption of Minutes: a. February 22, 2013
II. Public Comments	
III. Communication 1. From the State Board of Education 2. From the Office of Head Start a. Funding Guidance for FY 2014 b. Program Instruction on Sequestration	
IV. Monthly Reports 1. Director 2. Managers 3. Interim Finance Director	
V. Old Business <i>Updates:</i> 1. Open Purchase Orders 2. Center Parent Activity Funds	
VI. New Business 1. Funding Guidance for FY 2014 2. Sequestration 3. Updates on Program's Mission, Vision & Philosophy	

Miscellaneous Matters

Executive Session

Next Meeting

Adjournment

This meeting is open to the public, interested individuals are welcome to attend. Any person(s) requiring special accommodations may contact Ms. Candace Q. Celis at (670) 664-3761 or email address at candace.celis@cnmipss.org, several days notice is required.

/s/ Antonio Mesngon
Chairperson

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
 CUC-IFB-13-016
PROCUREMENT & INSTALLATION OF LED STREET LIGHTS
 (Phase No. 3)

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified and experienced firms for the procurement and installation of Light Emitting Diodes (LED) Street Lights on Saipan, Tinian and Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded through a grant from the U.S. Department of Energy (USDOE) under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

The Bid Package may be obtained, upon receipt of a non-refundable payment from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card, in the amount of \$100.00 for one set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-Bid Conference will be held at 10:00 AM (ChST) on **March 14, 2013** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-13-016, Procurement and Installation of Light Emitting Diodes (LED) Street Lights" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on April 9, 2013** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before submission deadline. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualifications should be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

The bidder is required to submit a copy of his CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page - <http://www.dol.gov/esa/minwage/cnmi/cnmi.htm>. The contractor will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws including the Davis Bacon Act.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or supply under the contract. The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for goods. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on **March 19, 2013** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Alfredo Palatiao, Power Division Engineer via email alfredo.palatiao@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Acting Executive Director

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
 P.O. Box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950
 Tel.No. (670) 234-6245 • Fax: (670) 235-7147
 email: administration@cda.gov.mp

PUBLIC NOTICE

THE COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (CDA) WISHES TO INFORM THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT SERVICES AT ITS CURRENT LOCATION IN MIDDLE ROAD GUALO RAI IS LIMITED TO RECEIVING PAYMENTS ONLY AS IT PREPARES TO RELOCATE TO ITS NEW LOCATION IN SAN JOSE.

THE OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED NEXT WEEK WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY, MARCH 27 AND 28 AND WILL REOPEN FOR BUSINESS AT ITS NEW LOCATION ON MONDAY, APRIL 1, 2013.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR UNDERSTANDING.

MANAGEMENT

Robert Tenorio Torres
 Attorney at Law
 Plata Drive, Whispering Palms, Chalan Kiya
 P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950
 Tel: (670) 234-7859
 Fax: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Administrator,
 Jeffrey R. Kaipat

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF MARIA PIERE MALUS, Deceased.

) CIVIL ACTION
) NO. 99-0769
)
) NOTICE OF
) HEARING

TO: ANY INTERESTED PARTY AND HEIRS OF MARIA PIERE MALUS, Deceased.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on March 26, 2013 at 1:30 pm, a hearing will be held before Associate Judge, David A. Wiseman on EX PARTE REQUEST FOR POST-DECREE COURTSUPERVISIONANDADMINISTRATION OF ESTATE FUNDS, REPORT OF STATUS OF RENTAL FUNDS RECEIVED AND MOTION TO DISQUALIFY AND REMOVE FORMER ADMINISTRATOR JEFFREY R. KAIPAT AS RECEIVER OF THE RENTAL INCOME FROM THE GARAPAN PROPERTIES AND TO APPOINT AN ALTERNATE RECEIVER in the above-captioned matter, at the Superior Court for the CNMI, Guma Hustisia, Civic Center, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 15th day of March, 2013.

/s/ Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Courts

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
 Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-13-017

Supply and Delivery of Materials and Tools for CUC Water Well Upgrade Project

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the supply and delivery of materials and tools for CUC water well upgrade project in Obyan and Koblerville, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded through a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA).

The Bid Package and Scope-of-Work may be picked-up, upon receipt of a deposit from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$ 100.00 for one set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

One (1) Original and Five (5) Copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "Supply and delivery of materials and tools for CUC water wells upgrade project, Obyan and Koblerville, Saipan" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on April 23, 2013**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Form. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on April 8, 2013** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., Purchasing Officer, via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to John Riegel, Water/Wastewater, Chief Engineer via email john.riegel@cucgov.org and Robert Malate, Water/Wastewater, Engineer via email robert.malate@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Acting Executive Director

Opinion

Hafa Adai! Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXIII, Issue No. 59

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Good night to 'Tonight'?

Johnny Carson brought NBC's "The Tonight Show" from New York to Southern California in 1972, a nod to Hollywood's status as the capital of the entertainment industry and the gravitational center of the pop-culture universe. Although the network's headquarters was in New York, Los Angeles had long since eclipsed the Big Apple when it came to television production. As Carson told the *Los Angeles Times* that year, "The guests you can get in Hollywood you can't get anywhere else."

In the four decades since then, many film and television producers have fled to cheaper locales, and new forms of entertainment have lured away many of the youthful viewers that Hollywood used to attract. So it's not shocking to learn that NBC may move "Tonight" back to New York when current host Jay Leno is replaced by his heir apparent, "Saturday Night Live" alum Jimmy Fallon. The choice of locations seems to be driven by Fallon's preferences, not business imperatives. But it's still hard for us Angelenos not to take it personally.

Aside from the occasional turbulence—as when NBC replaced Leno with Conan O'Brien in 2009 only to give the job back to Leno seven months later—"Tonight's" lead in the late-night TV ratings has been all-but unshakable. It remains an iconic program in a rich segment of the market; according to analysts at Kantar Media, late-night TV generates \$5.6 billion in revenue annually. But its viewership has shrunk, along with the advertising dollars. Kantar estimated that the show's revenue last year was more than 40 percent lower than it was in 2007. Last year "Tonight" laid off about 20 of its staff, or roughly 10 percent, and Leno's pay was cut by a similar share.

Network executives reportedly see switching to Fallon as a way to boost the show's appeal among the younger viewers that advertisers covet. Of course, that's the same reasoning that led to O'Brien's elevation, and that didn't work out as planned. One key difference, though, is that they're evidently ready to let Fallon move the show back to New York. O'Brien wanted to do that too, but they insisted he move west. That was less than four years ago.

Unlike the typical runaway production, "Tonight" won't save money by moving; in fact, it may actually spend more to shoot in New York than in Southern California. But Fallon's current show is produced in the city, and he reportedly wants to stay there for personal and professional reasons. Still, it's telling that the network believes the show can thrive far from beautiful downtown Burbank and the celebrities who still call the area home. As Milken Institute economist Kevin Klowden put it, "L.A. is not so essential, even to NBC's management."

With the fragmentation and globalization of entertainment, it's hard to think of any city as the industry's capital any longer. Besides, we'll still have "Jimmy Kimmel Live" and "Conan." All the same, if "Tonight" leaves, it'll be yet another sign that Hollywood's gravitational force isn't what it used to be.

©2013 Los Angeles Times



We must look closer to find answers

Daily we are faced with many problems. Some of them are very complex and require serious thinking in our search for an answer. I have found that sometimes we are too close to a problem and as a result fail to see the obvious answer before our eyes. Sometimes the problems require extensive research. But in the end when we do decide upon a solution, we must plunge in with passion, determination, and a strong will to implement the solution.

In these articles that I am privileged to share with you, I try to think of weekly thoughts that need to be considered. My objective is to make us question and to think about what is happening on our lovely islands. I don't have solutions to any problems, but together we will find them. We need to set directions and goals. Remember: *Success is a steady progression toward a worthy goal.*

Let us not blindly accept the first solution that pops into our head or one that someone throws at us and says this is the way it should be. We must examine the pros and cons of each potential solution. Question each solution. Demand sound answers for any solid action that is to follow. If not the results may be more damaging than the program itself.

Take for instance the following story that many of us may already know. Consider how this person solved what appeared an insoluble problem.

In 333B.C. as Alexander the Great was leading his armies across Asia, he reached the City of Gordium in Phryia. There he was shown the chariot of the ancient founder of the city. Its pole was lashed to the yoke by means of an intricate knot. According to tradition, this knot was to be untied only by the future conqueror of Asia. Many brave men had tried and failed.

Legend has it that Alexander looked at the knot, drew his sword and sliced through the knot with a single blow. Thus he solved the problem with a single stroke. And as was predicated shortly afterwards, under his rule, Asia was united for the first time. He could have acted as other did and failed. But he took a risk and that made all the difference in his career.

Alexander had two ways to untie the knot. One was to do what he did—simply take his sword and cut it. Or he could have used a second method. Had he looked carefully at the knot, he would have noticed that the ends of the rope were twisted round and folded up with it. It would have been easy for Alexander to undo it. All he had to do was to pull the pin out of the pole to which the yoke was tied and afterwards draw off the yoke itself from below. But he performed a bold act and that made all the difference.

What is the moral of the story? Sometimes it is better not to get too involved in a problem, Stand back and decide on a course of action and then take it. Take the risk. Make a bold solution! Stop whining and talking. Simply DO IT! Get off our "buts!" Oh, how I wish certain government agencies would understand this simple truth.

Over the years I have found a little publically admitted reason why many of our leaders do not take risks that when successful would greatly benefit our community. In discussing solutions with

By ANTHONY PELLEGRINO

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Pellegrino is a longtime businessman in the CNMI and is a former president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.



some of our leaders, they have candidly admitted to me: "But if I push for this bill, I may not get re-elected!" What is more important: doing what one believes in or worrying about whether or not he will get re-elected? Where is the self-respect and concern about our community?

Secondly, by studying the problem we will find more than one good solution. But if we keep thinking with our heads twisted backward, we can only see where we have come from and not the road ahead of us. Hopefully we will turn our heads around and see the bright shining road ahead of us.

Consider this situation: Once there was a man who lived by the side of the road. He sold hot dogs. He had no radio. Because he had trouble with his eyes, he never read the newspaper or watched television. But he sold hot dogs. He put up a sign on the highway telling how good they were. He stood by the side of the road and shouted: "Buy a hot dog, mister" to everybody that passed. And the people bought. He increased his meat and bun orders. Soon he built a bigger stand to take care of his growing business.

He brought his son home from college to help him. But then something happened. His son said: "Father, haven't you been listening to the radio or reading the newspapers or watching television? Business is terrible and the domestic situation is even worse."

With that his father thought: "Well, my son has been to college. He listens to the radio, reads the newspapers, and watches television so he ought to know."

So the father cut down his bun order, took down his advertising signs, and no longer bothered to stand on the highway to sell hot dogs. His hot dog sales fell almost to nothing overnight.

Does this situation sound familiar in our islands? Do we react in a similar manner when we hear bad news?

How about this story? Once there was a woman who had identical twins about 6 years old. They were very healthy but with strikingly different personalities. One boy was very moody and pessimistic in his outlook on everything. Whenever his mother bought him toys, he was afraid that they would break and cut his finger, so he didn't want to play with them.

The other brother, however, was always cheerful and optimistic in his outlook on everything. He could find joy in the simplest toy or in anything his mother gave him.

The mother was quite concerned about the two boys' personality

See ANSWERS on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Navigating the ‘vast sea of unknowns’ of water risk

By DR. ANDREW STEER and DR. LARRY BRILLIANT
MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE

We know less about one of world’s most pressing challenges today than we did 10 years ago. It’s no secret that water—or the lack thereof—will be one of the defining issues of the 21st century. And yet, the United Nations World Water Report, in 2009, stated that when it comes to water, “less is known with each passing decade.”

The World Economic Forum recently named the water supply crises as one of the top risks facing the planet—edging out issues like terrorism and systemic financial failure. Water risks permeate almost every aspect of global society. We got a taste last year with crops scorched by drought, shipping lanes threatened and energy plants shut down by low water levels, and coastlines devastated by flooding. Exacerbated by climate change and population growth, such crises will become more common and costly. Yet, the world largely lacks the data we need to monitor, understand, and respond to these water challenges. We are flying blind when it comes to global water issues.

History shows us the power of information to avert crisis. For example, as a result of a dramatic increase in data, the public health community has transformed its ability to identify and respond to a pandemic. Less than 20 years ago, it took, on average, 167 days to detect and verify a disease outbreak.

Today, it takes less than 20 days largely because of advances in data collection and availability, including leveraging passive data through tools like Google Flu Trends and web scrubbers like the

Global Public Health Intelligence Network. The health sector has invested in better information to detect pandemics. It’s time for the water sector to invest in better water data to respond to devastating water-related disasters and increasing water risks.

Unfortunately, directly observed data on water is patchy at best, non-existent at worst. The Global Runoff Data Centre is the closest thing to an international clearinghouse for information on how much water is in rivers worldwide. But the number of data collection stations reporting to the Centre has fallen steadily since the 1980s; only about one-third of the observing stations report their data to the Centre. Many stations are no longer being maintained, have been eliminated, or are reluctant to publicly share the data. Of particular concern are the region’s most at risk—the Middle East, South Asia, and Africa—where publicly available water data is nearly absent.

Even in the United States, the story is not so different. The country is still recovering from impacts of Superstorm Sandy, which cost over \$60 billion, and the ongoing drought, which may turn out to be the costliest natural disaster in U.S. history.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Geological Survey reported that between 1980 and 2004, over 2,000 stream gauges to measure river levels were shut down, a loss of more than a quarter of the nation’s total network. These gauges help predict floods and droughts and provide the data needed to monitor changes in water stress. The current budget “sequestration” could force USGS to shut down an additional 375 gauges.

To prepare for an increasingly water-insecure future, we urgently need to bridge this data gap.

The good news is we do not have to start from scratch. Using

available data from satellites and state-of-the-art modeling techniques, it is possible to collect critical information needed to monitor and evaluate emerging water risks across the globe.

One example is Aqueduct, the global water risk mapping tool recently released by the World Resources Institute, with the support of the Skoll Global Threats Fund, and multinationals like Goldman Sachs, GE and Shell. Aqueduct offers free and open data, across twelve indicators of water risk, ranging from floods and droughts to access to clean drinking water. It also provides the ability to project changes in water risks in the coming years, according to the effects of climate change, and population and economic growth.

While Aqueduct represents an important resource, it is not enough. There is no substitute for directly observed, locally collected data. Bringing together such information can be a daunting task, but there are several important steps that must be taken to improve water data. We need increased investment in gathering local water data; and more stream gauges need to be installed, rather than shuttering those we already have. We need to meter groundwater, so we know how quickly these water suppliers are being depleted. We need to take advantage of new technologies, such as satellite remote sensing and crowd-sourced data, to fill the gaps. And perhaps most important, we need to change the paradigm from secrecy to transparency by negotiating ways to make existing data held by governments, companies and academic institutions freely available.

In 2012, a UNESCO report compared our understanding of water to “islands of knowledge in a vast sea of unknowns.” As we mark World Water Day 2013, it’s clear that this is no way to handle one of the defining challenges of our generation. Now more than ever, we have the capability to address our woeful lack of water data. We just need the will to do so.

Dr. Andrew Steer is the president and CEO of the World Resources Institute. Dr. Larry Brilliant is the president of the Skoll Global Threats Fund.

How to save water on World Water Day

Friday, March 22, is World Water Day, and here in the United States we must learn to preserve this precious resource.

The United States is one of the world’s biggest users of water—a single American can use as much water as 900 Kenyans. As a result, water resources in the United States are shrinking.

In the last five years, there have been water shortages in almost every part of the country, including the worst drought in at least 25 years, which hit 80 percent of the country’s farmland in 2012. This year, at least 36 states are expecting local, regional, or statewide water shortages, even if the drought doesn’t persist.

Here are five steps you can take to save water in the United States:

1. Eating a little less meat. Switching from a meat-centered weekly menu to a diet rich in vegetables and grains could save 2,500 liters of water a day! And eating grass-fed and locally raised meat, eggs and dairy products can also save water.

2. Steam veggies instead of boiling. In general, steaming vegetables uses less water than boiling, and according to a study in the *Journal of Food Quality*, it is more nutritious. For example, boiling corn on the cob in a large pot may use 6-8 quarts of water, whereas steaming only uses 1-2 quarts. If you must boil, save the water for your garden or soup stock, or use it to clean pots.

3. Provide support for small-scale, family farms. Agricultural subsidies in the United States disproportionately support large-scale agribusinesses over the small-scale producers who are more likely to be engaged in sustainable food production and may be challenged by drought or commodity price fluctuations. Changes in government support services could reduce this deficit and improve food and water security.

By DANIELLE NIERENBERG

The Progressive Media Project

Danielle Nierenberg is a food and agriculture expert and co-founder of Food Tank: The Food Think Tank (www.FoodTank.org). She wrote this for Progressive Media Project; it is affiliated with The Progressive magazine.



4. Streamline water use in home gardens. During the summer months, the Environmental Protection Agency reports that nearly 40 percent of household water is used for watering lawns and gardens. National Geographic suggests incorporating native plants into your garden that are adapted to the local climate and often require less water. Manually watering plants, instead of using automatic sprinklers, cuts water use by 33 percent, according to the EPA. Consumers can also buy self-watering planters or construct rain barrels that can save you up to 1,300 gallons of water.

5. Reduce food waste. The U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization reports that nearly one-third of all food produced for human consumption is wasted throughout production, storage, transportation, consumption and disposal. Learn about your food’s shelf life and how long you can store food in your freezer. You can reduce food waste by buying only what you plan to eat, using leftovers to create new meals or donating food you can’t use to soup kitchens.

It’s more important than ever that, on this World Water Day, Americans find ways to save every drop.

ANSWERS

From Page 10

differences. So one day she took them to a child psychologist. After examining them, he placed each boy in a separate room to conduct a little experiment.

After a few minutes, he opened the door of the boy who was always pessimistic. There the little boy sat crying surrounded by some of the latest and most exciting toys. In all this potential fun and games, the little boy found no happiness.

Moving to the other brother’s room, the doctor found the little boy with a shovel in his hands furiously digging under a heap of horse manure. Turning to the doctor, the little boy squealed: “Under all this manure there must be a Shetland pony and I’m going to find him!” What’s the moral of this story? You figure it out.

There are answers to all our problems. We created them and we can also solve them. But the crisis we face when we do find the solution is that we lack the determination to implement it. We find escape in our comfort zone. As a result we end up doing nothing. We prefer finding “but” excuses to escape the discomfort zone.

The comfort zone and the discomfort zone can be compared to room temperatures. When it gets too hot we turn the temperature down to comfort. So it is when we strive to achieve something and give up because we cannot tolerate the discomfort zone. Any wonder why many of us never succeed? We prefer the comfort zone rather the discomfort zone that success demands. Think about it? Each of us has to find our own path in life. Life is beautiful despite the economic climate we sow.

May God bless us all and grant us joy and good health. Have a great day and give everyone a firm handshake and a warm smile today!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Saipanda

Since when did Saipan have pandas? Who came up with this genius idea of a panda? Many tourists ask me: Where can we see pandas? And I’d say, who gave you the idea that we on Saipan have pandas? And they say the brochure that our tour guide gave us, even the bus with the panda eyes and long nose, shows that Saipan has panda.

I say all tour companies need to get together with the Marianas Visitors Authority and reinvent the Saipan name itself. Like Home of the Blue Jays. Or something more attractive and eye-catching and something real. Not fake like Saipanda. Whoever came up with this panda idea had way too much beer, CNMI.

Now that tourists are coming back, the people of the CNMI need to come together as a community and start cleaning up beaches and other attractive points of the CNMI. Put a big sign on the beach that says, “We ain’t your mama to clean up after you.” Please keep the beaches clean and get rid of that Saipanda logo; that’s fake. And start putting up some kind of logo for Saipan that’s real and has meaning and feeling.

We call these islands home. Let’s treat it as a home and keep it clean. This land is your land.

Brenson John

Hummelstown, Pennsylvania

Nature’s gift

Driving to work Friday morning I found a Ka’kak bird in the middle of Isa Road. Many cars passed it by and it was only a matter of time before it would get hit by one. So I turned around and picked it up, went to Kagman Mobil, got a box and took it to work with me. I called Fish & Wildlife, Paul gave me Jay Camacho’s cell number to call. Jay met me and took the bird to Dr. Tudor for a checkup. All this took less than an hour to save this bird. It was a beautiful creature and I was privileged to be given a chance to help. Please be mindful of nature’s gifts on our beautiful island. Fish & Wildlife is there to help and they responded immediately. I am impressed with their service. If you don’t want to stop for an injured wildlife creature, call 664-6000 for help.






Lucy Sablan

Chalan Kiya, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 87° ▼ 76°	▲ 87° ▼ 76°	▲ 87° ▼ 76°	▲ 87° ▼ 76°	▲ 87° ▼ 76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲ 86 ▼ 79
Palau	Showers	▲ 87 ▼ 76
Yap	Showers	▲ 89 ▼ 77
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	▲ 85 ▼ 79
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	▲ 86 ▼ 79
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	▲ 86 ▼ 79
Majuro	Cloudy	▲ 86 ▼ 80

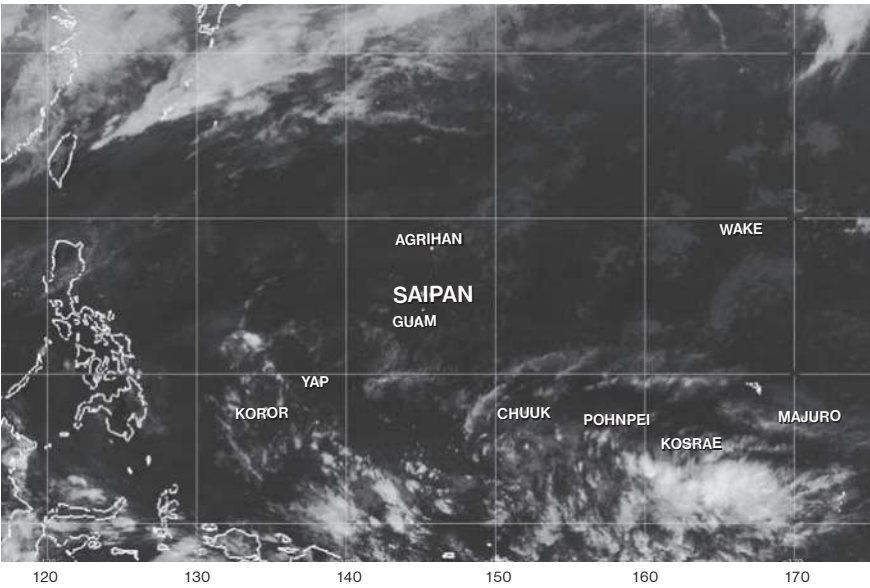
Around The Globe

Auckland	Sunny	▲ 74 ▼ 62
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲ 58 ▼ 41
Hong Kong	Showers	▲ 74 ▼ 72
Honolulu	Showers	▲ 80 ▼ 70
London	Cloudy	▲ 36 ▼ 34
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲ 72 ▼ 53
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲ 90 ▼ 80
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲ 85 ▼ 65
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲ 81 ▼ 55
New York	Ice	▲ 38 ▼ 33
Osaka	Cloudy	▲ 53 ▼ 43
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 41 ▼ 33
Pusan	Cloudy	▲ 54 ▼ 45
Rome	Showers	▲ 59 ▼ 43
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 64 ▼ 42
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲ 61 ▼ 50
Seoul	Cloudy	▲ 50 ▼ 34
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲ 56 ▼ 46
Washington, DC	Ice	▲ 38 ▼ 34

Tides

Saipan Harbor			
1:12 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
7:35 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
1:42 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.7 Feet
7:20 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, MARCH 24, 2013

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A surface trough extends southeastward from 15N130E through near Koror at 8N133E to end at 4N136E. Isolated showers and thunderstorms are occurring between Yap and Koror within 85 miles of a line from 13N132E to 3N140E. A weak near-equatorial trough curves eastward from 2N130E through a weak circulation centered near 3N142E to end at EQ150E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found near these features between the equator and 3N from 137E to 148E. Trade-wind convergence is generating numerous showers and isolated Thunderstorms south of Pohnpei, Kosrae and Majuro but over Butaritari and Tarawa atolls between the equator and 5N from 158E to 174E. Trade-wind disturbances are generating scattered showers east of the Northern CNMI within 130 miles of a line from 17N149E to 22N152e and also south of Wake Island within 105 miles of a line from 12N165E to 18N169E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:18 AM	6:29 PM
Tuesday	6:17 AM	6:29 PM
Wednesday	6:16 AM	6:29 PM
Thursday	6:16 AM	6:29 PM
Friday	6:15 AM	6:29 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	4:33 PM	4:20 AM
Tuesday	5:27 PM	5:02 AM
Wednesday	6:21 PM	5:45 AM
Thursday	7:18 PM	6:30 AM
Friday	8:17 PM	7:18 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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 - Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
 - Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 8, 2013

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7	UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:40am	5:30am	1, 3, 5	UA5071	7:05am	7:55am	Daily
UA5068	8:25am	9:15am	Daily	UA5073	9:50am	10:40am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
UA5074	11:10am	12:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily	UA5077	5:35pm	6:25pm	Daily
UA5078	6:55pm	7:45pm	Daily	UA5079	8:20pm	9:10pm	Daily
UA5072	9:45pm	10:35pm	Daily				
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:00am	8:45am	Daily	DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL285	6:30am	9:15am	1, 3, 5, 7	DL286	7:40pm	12:15am+1	2, 4, 6, 7
DL297	4:25pm	7:25pm	Daily	DL288	8:40pm	1:15am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)				OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN			
OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily	OZ120	9:50pm	2:20am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	1, 4, 5, 7	OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1	OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
OZ6063	3:30am	7:20am	1, 5	OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	Daily via KIX	OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
OZ604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily	OZ6053	8:50pm	2:10am+1	4, 7
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	6:00am	8:35am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:30pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU7108	3:50am	7:40am	1, 5	MU7107	7:40pm	2:50am+1	4, 7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6	3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-VLADIVOSTOK (VVO)				VLADIVOSTOK (VVO)-SAIPAN			
XF1734	11:55am	5:10pm	5	XF1733	8:00pm	12:05am+1	4
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN	OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	DL172/288	7:55am	1:15am+1	2, 4, 7 via NRT
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	6 via GUM	DL172/288	8:00am	1:15am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via NRT
UA5062/191	4:40am	9:55am	3 via GUM	UA190/5077	10:55am	6:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:00am	10:15pm	2, 4, 5, 7 via NRT	UA190/5079	10:55am	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:00am	10:35pm	1, 3, 6 via NRT	OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	Daily via GUM	OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN	PR110/UA5072	10:15pm	7:55am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5072/PR111	9:45pm	7:45am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	UA184/5071	10:55pm	7:55am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
				UA184/5071	11:59pm	7:55am+1	2, 5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ606/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:45pm	1, 5 via GUM	OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ604/749	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN	UA180/5071	10:35pm	7:55am+1	1, 5 via GUM
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air.							
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The <i>Saipan Tribune</i> is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)							
FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE							
Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan							
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	Tinian-Saipan			
Saipan-Rota				FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
				FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Tentative ruling disqualifies law firm as counsel for Ayuyu

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona issued a tentative ruling on Friday to disqualify for potential attorney conflict the law firm of Torres Brothers as counsel for detained Sen. Juan M. Ayuyu (R-Rota).

Manglona allowed attorney Victorino Torres to allow his client, Ayuyu, to confer with court-appointed counsel Vicente Salas.

The judge ordered Salas to meet with the senator immediately and to file his response, under seal if needed, with the court no later than today, Monday, at 12:30pm.

Friday's hearing was on po-

tential attorney conflict issue and initial appearance. Ayuyu appeared with retained counsel, Victorino and Joaquin Torres of the Torres Brothers law firm. Ayuyu's court-appointed counsel, Salas, also appeared. The U.S. government was represented by assistant U.S. attorneys Garth Backe and Ross Naughton.

Victorino Torres informed the court that his written response regarding the potential conflict issue was filed on March 20.

Salas told the court that he was able to meet and confer with Ayuyu after being appointed as his counsel on March 20.

Salas informed the court of

Ayuyu's possible waiver of the potential conflict issue. Victorino Torres argued in favor of accepting a waiver.

But the prosecutors argued that a waiver should not be accepted and that attorneys Victorino and Joaquin Torres should be disqualified as counsel for Ayuyu.

Manglona asked the Tor-

res brothers whether or not the Torres law firm has given any legal advice to their other brother, Sen. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan).

Both Victorino and Joaquin Torres replied that as officers of the court they have not provided any legal advice to Sen. Torres with this matter.

Manglona took the matter un-

der advisement and remanded Ayuyu back into the custody of the U.S. Marshal.

Ayuyu is facing two criminal cases over an alleged conspiracy to smuggle eight dead Mariana fruit bats from Rota to Saipan in October 2010, concealing the bats inside a cardboard box beneath 40 lbs of lemons. A joint jury trial in the two cases will be

on April 1, 2013.

Recently, the U.S. government filed a third criminal case against Ayuyu for alleged possession of a cell phone while being detained last January at the Department of Corrections in Susupe.

Ayuyu, 48, has been in detention since Dec. 17, 2012. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

Fed judge orders Inos to appear at Fund hearing

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood on Friday ordered Gov. Eloy S. Inos to appear at a hearing in connection with an emergency motion filed by retiree Betty Johnson.

"Because this case has a significant impact on the livelihood of thousands of retirees and employees of the Commonwealth government, the court believes the attendance and participation of its chief executive is essential," Tydingco-Gatewood said in an order.

If Inos is unable to attend the hearing—currently set for April 1 at 10am—he may designate Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider to attend, the judge said.

Johnson filed an emergency motion for clarification of the court's order dated Jan. 18, 2013, with respect to Public Law 18-2.

Johnson asserts that P.L. 18-2 was enacted by the Commonwealth "to circumvent the court's order and force the Fund to make immediate distributions to current employees."

Johnson, through counsel, alleges that an emergency hearing is necessary because the passage of P.L. 18-2 will affect the viability of the ongoing settlement process.

P.L. 18-2, which was enacted on March 11, 2013, compels the Fund to release up to 50 percent of a member's contributions within 30 days of that member submitting a refund application.

In the Jan. 18 order, Tydingco-Gatewood said that, in light of the anticipated settlement conference in Johnson's lawsuit and in the interest of judicial economy, the court will hold all other pending motions in abeyance until the settlement process is completed.

In her order issued Friday, Tydingco-Gatewood said that, at the Jan. 15, 2013 hearing, all parties agreed that they were willing to participate in good faith settlement negotiations.

The judge recalled that as-

sistant attorney general Gilbert Bimbrich only agreed to participate in settlement negotiations after speaking with and getting approval from then lieutenant governor and now Gov. Inos.

Tydingco-Gatewood said she then contacted chief bankruptcy judge Robert J. Faris, who agreed to preside over the settlement conference.

Thereafter, Tydingco-Gatewood said, Faris held a telephonic conference with the parties and ordered the participants to submit confidential settlement statements, with individual conferences to be scheduled later.

Tydingco-Gatewood said she is concerned about Johnson's allegations, suggesting that the settlement process is being threatened.

The judge ordered the CNMI government to indicate in its response whether Inos is still pursuing good faith and settlement negotiations.

"If the answer is yes, defendant Commonwealth shall also indicate whether and how Public Law 18-2 conflicts with those negotiations," Tydingco-Gatewood said.

The judge ordered the Fund's trustee *ad litem* to indicate in its response whether and how disbursing contributions under P.L. 18-2 affects both the Fund itself and both classes of members, including the retirees who do not opt out of the Fund.

She also directed the trustee *ad litem* to discuss the progress in determining the accuracy of the Fund's records and the processing of applications to terminate membership in the Fund.

In her lawsuit, Johnson asked the court to order the Fund and the CNMI government to collect Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo's judgment, pay or bring current all CNMI obligations to the Fund, and distribute appropriate retirement benefits.

Betty Johnson named as defendants former governor Benigno R. Fitial, the CNMI government, and other co-defendants.



COVENANT DAY

A man picks an orange beside a celebratory cake while others in the background line up for food during yesterday's Covenant Day festivities at Minatchom Atdao pavilion in Susupe. On March 24, 1976, U.S. President Gerald Ford signed a congressional resolution approving a mutually negotiated "Covenant to Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States."

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Inos restores PUC powers but extends CUC emergency

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
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REPORTER

Gov. Eloy S. Inos restored the Public Utilities Commission's regulatory powers on Friday but extended for another 30 days the state of emergency declaration for the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. so that CUC will be able to continue employing skilled technical foreign workers in the absence of qualified U.S. citizen workers.

With Inos lifting the suspension of PUC's authority, the commission resumes its regulatory oversight of CUC and other utility firms in the CNMI, including review of contracts,

proposed rate increases, and the entry into the CNMI of Guam-based GTA Services LLC, among other things.

PUC, chaired by Joseph C. Guerrero, has been asking for PUC's powers to be restored.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said the latest emergency declaration extension allows CUC to continue to employ skilled technical foreign workers so that the utilities agency will "adequately function and deliver essential services" to the community.

"The governor will seek the assistance of the Legislature to pass legislation that would allow CUC to retain their technical specialists in the absence of

qualified U.S. citizen workers," Demapan said.

Inos also noted the lack of a functioning CUC board of directors and the difficulty that the Office of the Governor has been experiencing in its search for volunteers who meet the complex statutory qualifications.

"Nonetheless, the administration is continuing its efforts to seek out qualified volunteers to accept the appointment and comprise a functioning board," Demapan added.

Former governor Benigno R. Fitial declared another round of emergency declaration for CUC last year, allowing the governor to have direct control over CUC,

reprogram funds, and suspend procurement laws or rules to address the CUC emergency.

While Inos extended Friday CUC's emergency declaration, he restored PUC's authority.

In the latest declaration extension, Inos still cited the estimated \$14 million that the Public School System and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. owe CUC. Millions more are owed by residential customers to CUC.

The governor also renewed for another two years Alan Fletcher's contract as CUC deputy executive director, in consultation with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

HHS Corps mum on hospital CEO's nonrenewal

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

The team of medical experts that recently left the Commonwealth Health Center declined to comment on the nonrenewal of Juan N. Babauta's contract as CEO of the public hospital, according to U.S. Health and Human Services public affairs department Kate Migliaccio.

"[Rear Adm.] Newton Kendig shared your email with me since I work in public affairs. We want to thank you for the opportunity to comment, however, we have no comment at this time," stated Migliaccio's email to *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Kendig's team recently completed a sustainability plan for

the hospital, in which it also covered items relating to the relationship and functions of both the CEO and the corporation's advisory board. In its report, it said the multiple layers of decision-makers prevent CHC management from efficiently responding to the needs of the hospital. It advised the board against meddling in management-level decisions and operations.

Corporation board of trustee Anthony Raho believes, however, that Babauta's hiring was questionable from the start because it is inconsistent with the law's objective. He cited Public Law 16-51's provision that calls for a "professionally managed" healthcare corporation.

"During the board's evaluation it has become clear and evident that the current CEO was not put into the position via the process outlined in P.L. 16-51 and inconsistent with the law's most important intent and purpose but rather a politically motivated appointment," Raho said.

He said Babauta's lack of required experience and training in direct healthcare organization management led to many instances of ineffective management and poor leadership.

Raho credited Babauta for his Herculean efforts and attempts to bring progress to the hospital and believes that he has an important place as a public servant but not in direct health care

management.

Raho, who voted for Babauta's nonrenewal, described the evaluation process as "extensive, fair, and complete."

He said Babauta was evaluated objectively on his effectiveness of fulfilling his duties and job requirements as outlined in both his contract and P.L. 16-51.

Babauta's contract will expire on July 9. Gov. Eloy S. Inos will make the final decision whether to concur or reject the advisory board's action. In a statement last week, press secretary Angel A. Demapan said that Inos, prior to making a decision, will consult with the board regarding its findings.

Babauta, meantime, told *Saipan Tribune* that he will continue to serve his position until the end of his contract.

Island Snapshots



MT. TAPOCHAO REHAB

Gov. Eloy S. Inos leads business executives and other government officials in cutting the ceremonial ribbon that marked the completion of the Mt. Tapochao rehabilitation project on Thursday.

CLARISSA V. DAVID



Officials of the Marianas Visitors Authority, Saipan Chamber of Commerce, and private corporations have their picture taken on Mt. Tapochao after the unveiling of the completed renovation work on the peak's viewing deck on Thursday.

CLARISSA V. DAVID



BEACH CLEANUP

Independents Football Club collected a pickup load of trash during their beach cleanup on March 16, 2013, from Saipan World Resort in Susupe to Pakpak Beach in San Antonio. The cleanup was in conjunction with the Marianas Visitors Authority's Beautify My Marianas cleanup campaign.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



HOOAHHHH!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Congratulations to PVT Myisha Concepcion Babauta, for recently graduating from Marine basic training in South Carolina. We are all very proud of you and we love you! Greetings come from your proud parents, Michael and Melissa Babauta, and you equally proud siblings: Nicole, EJ, and Junior Myisha!



CHCC MEETING

Pedro Dela Cruz, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. board vice chairman and head of the special committee to evaluate the CEO's performance, reads to the full board Thursday the findings of the committee that recommended the nonrenewal of Juan N. Babauta's contract.

MONETH G. DEPOSA



CEO Juan N. Babauta defends himself on several allegations about his leadership style. Babauta vows to serve the position until the end of his contract.

MONETH G. DEPOSA

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS



Belated happy second birthday to Ki'llani Petrisha C. Ngeskebei, who celebrated her special day on March 23, 2013! With much love from the Lord our Father to bless her and to guide her on this special day. We love you "Ki" and miss you so much! Greetings come from Grandpa (Den Neskebei) Grandma (Linda Lizama), Great-grandma (Mary L.), Grandpa (Ton B.), Great-great grandma (Neives N.), Aunt Daisy Anne and the families.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy birthday Grandma Dyna Cabrera! Wishing you all the happiness, blessings, and good health! Greetings come from your grandkids Althea, MJ, Miyiel, Maryiel, Ana, Mae, and Derek.

Business

The cash register rings its last sale

NEW YORK (AP)—Ka-ching! The cash register may be on its final sale.

Stores across the country are ditching the old-fashioned, clunky machines and having salespeople—and even shoppers themselves—ring up sales on smartphones and tablet computers.

Barneys New York, a luxury retailer, this year plans to use iPads or iPod Touch devices for credit and debit card purchases in seven of its nearly two dozen regular-price stores. Urban Outfitters, a teen clothing chain, ordered its last traditional register last fall and plans to go completely mobile one day. And Wal-Mart, the world's largest retailer, is testing a "Scan & Go" app that lets customers scan their items as they shop.

"The traditional cash register is heading toward obsolescence," said Danielle Vitale, chief operating officer of Barneys New York.

That the cash register is getting the boot is no surprise. The writing has been on the wall for a long time for the iconic machine, which was created in the late 1800s. The register was essential in nearly every retail location by the early 1900s, but it now seems outdated in a world



AP
In this Friday, Feb. 15, 2013, photo, a sales staff member at Barney's New York uses an iPod Touch to help a customer make a purchase, in New York.

in which smartphones and tablets increasingly are replacing everything from books to ATMs to cameras.

Stores like smartphones and tablets because they take up less floor space than registers and

free up cashiers to help customers instead of being tethered to one spot. They also are cheaper: For instance, Apple Inc.'s iPads with accessories like credit card readers can cost a store \$1,500, compared with \$4,000 for a register.

Cyprus talks to continue; no deal yet

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP)—Cyprus officials and international representatives ended tortuous negotiation in the early hours of Sunday with no agreement on a plan to raise money the island nation needs to qualify for a bailout package. Talks are set to resume later Sunday in Brussels, but time is running out: Failure would mean Cyprus could declare bankruptcy in just two days and possibly have to exit the eurozone.

Cyprus President Nicos Anastasiades and Finance Minister Michalis Sarris will travel to the Belgian capital early Sunday. A viable plan must be cemented

before finance ministers from the 17 countries that use the euro currency meet in Brussels in the evening.

"Negotiations are at a very delicate phase," government spokesman Christos Stylianides said in a statement. "The situation is very difficult and the margins very limited."

Cyprus has been told it must raise 5.8 billion euros (\$7.5 billion) in order to secure 10 billion euros in rescue loans from other European countries that use the single currency, as well as from the IMF.

The IMF, European Central Bank and European Commis-

sion—known as the troika—will determine whether the plan that the Cypriots devise will meet the requirements for any international bailout package. Then, the plan is to be presented to the eurozone finance ministers for final approval. The European Central Bank has said it will stop providing emergency funding to Cyprus' banks after Monday if no new plan is in place. Without its support, the banks would collapse on Tuesday, pushing the country toward bankruptcy and a potential exit from the 17-nation bloc that uses the euro currency.

Senate Democratic budget extends standoff with GOP

WASHINGTON (AP)—An exhausted Senate gave pre-dawn approval Saturday to a Democratic \$3.7 trillion budget for next year that embraces nearly \$1 trillion in tax increases over the coming decade but shelters domestic programs targeted for cuts by House Republicans.

While their victory was by a razor-thin 50-49 vote, it allowed Democrats to tout their priorities. Yet it doesn't resolve the deep differences the two parties have over deficits and the size of government.

Joining all Republicans voting no were four Democrats who face re-election next year

in potentially difficult races: Sens. Max Baucus of Montana, Mark Begich of Alaska, Kay Hagan of North Carolina and Mark Pryor of Arkansas. Sen. Frank Lautenberg, D-N.J., did not vote.

White House spokesman Jay Carney praised the Senate plan, saying in a statement it "will create jobs and cut the deficit in a balanced way."

While calling on both sides to find common ground, Carney did not hold out much hope for compromise with Republicans. The rival budget passed by the GOP-led House cuts social programs too deeply, he said, and fails "to ask for a single dime of

deficit reduction from closing tax loopholes for the wealthy and well-connected."

The Senate vote came after lawmakers labored through the night on scores of symbolic amendments, ranging from voicing support for letting states collect taxes on Internet sales to expressing opposition to requiring photo IDs for voters.

Final approval came at around 5 a.m. EDT, capping an extraordinary 20 hours of votes and debate. As the night wore on, virtually all senators remained in the chamber, a rarity during a normal business day. But at that hour, most had nowhere else to go.

Nation

Bloomberg, mayor group tout big gun control push

NEW YORK (AP)—A new \$12 million television ad campaign from Mayors Against Illegal Guns will push senators in key states to back gun control efforts, including comprehensive background checks.

New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg announced the ad buy Saturday—just days after Senate Democrats touted stronger background checks while acknowledging insufficient support to restore a ban on assault-style weapons to federal gun control legislation.

"These ads bring the voices of Americans—who overwhelmingly support comprehensive and enforceable background checks—into the discussion to move senators to immediately take action to prevent gun violence," Bloomberg said in a statement issued by the group he co-founded in 2006.

The two ads posted on the group's website, called "Responsible" and "Family," show a gun owner holding a rifle

while sitting on the back of a pickup truck.

In one ad, the man says he'll defend the Second Amendment but adds "with rights come responsibilities." The ad then urges viewers to tell Congress to support background checks.

In the other ad, the man, a hunter, says "background checks have nothing to do with taking guns away from anyone." The man then says closing loopholes will stop criminals and the mentally ill from obtaining weapons.

The Senate is scheduled to debate federal gun control legislation next month. On March 28, the group plans for more than 100 events nationwide in support of passing gun control legislation that includes background checks.

Mayors Against Illegal Guns and other gun-control advocates frequently cite a mid-1990s study that suggests about 40 percent of U.S. gun transfers were conducted by private sellers not subject to

federal background checks. Based on 2011 FBI data, the group estimates 6.6 million firearms transfers are made without a background check for the receiver.

A spokesman for Bloomberg could not immediately say if the \$12 million was coming from Bloomberg or the mayor's political action committee, Independence USA. The New York Times, which first reported the ad campaign Saturday night, said Bloomberg was bankrolling the ad buy.

A spokesman for the National Rifle Association blasted Bloomberg and the new ads, saying NRA members and supporters would be calling senators directly and urging them to vote against proposed gun control legislation.

"What Michael Bloomberg is trying to do is ... intimidate senators into not listening to constituents and instead pledge their allegiance to him and his money," said spokesman Andrew Arulanandam.

Holder averts furloughs of prison staffers

WASHINGTON (AP)—Attorney General Eric Holder says he has averted daily furloughs of 3,570 federal prison staffers around the country, moving \$150 million from other Justice Department accounts to stave off a serious threat to the lives and safety of correctional staff, inmates and the public.

Some 38,000 employees at the U.S. Bureau of Prisons supervise 176,000 inmates at 119 institutions, ensuring security and providing prisoners with needed programs.

In a memo Friday to all Justice Department employees, Holder said that congressional passage of a spending bill keeping the government open

through the end of September provides no relief from \$1.6 billion in Justice Department budget reductions that already took effect.

Holder's memo did not say which department agencies were tapped for the \$150 million and spokeswoman Nanda Chitre declined to comment on that question Saturday.

Holder said the cuts still raise serious issues.

"I am deeply troubled by the impact the sequester will have on the department's capacity to prevent terrorism, combat violent crime, partner with states and local law enforcement agencies and protect the judiciary and our most vulnerable

citizens," Holder wrote.

"I am still evaluating whether we have the ability to avoid other furloughs in the department this year," he added, addressing concerns of department employees. "I will do all that I can to minimize the impact of these events on your lives."

The attorney general said moving the \$150 million can protect prison facilities through the end of the fiscal year in September, but does not resolve "serious life and safety issues" the Bureau of Prisons faces next year.

Holder said his department has already required extensive cuts to travel, training, contracts and other accounts.



ACROSS THE NATION

Man killed in Texas called suspect in Colo. slaying

DENVER (AP)—Colorado investigators on Saturday said for the first time that a former prison inmate who was killed in a gunfight with Texas authorities is a suspect in the death of Colorado's state prison system chief. The evidence gathered in Texas after the death of Evan Spencer Ebel provided a "strong, strong lead" in the fatal shooting of Colorado Department of Corrections director Tom Clements, who was killed at his front door, El Paso County sheriff's spokesman Lt. Jeff Kramer said Saturday. Kramer also confirmed Ebel had been a member of the 211s, a white supremacist prison gang in Colorado. It was not known if Ebel knew who Clements was and that he was the state's top prison official, Kramer said.

Skydive instructor, student killed in Florida jump

ZEPHYRHILLS, Fla. (AP)—Authorities say a skydive instructor and a student who jumped

separately have died in Florida. The skydivers, both men, were part of a jump Saturday in Zephyrhills, about 30 miles northeast of Tampa. Authorities say the plane took off about 10:30 a.m. and 22 people jumped. When only 20 returned, authorities started searching for the missing men. The bodies were located about 7:30 p.m. in a wooded area south of the Zephyrhills Municipal Airport. They were found near each other.

Powerball jackpot tantalizes at \$320 million

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP)—People across the country are hoping to pick the six winning Powerball numbers drawn Saturday night—and the \$320 million jackpot that comes with them. The numbers are: 17, 29, 31, 52, 53 and Powerball 31. No ticket matched all the numbers in Wednesday's Powerball drawing. Neil Watson with the Nebraska Lottery says the current estimated jackpot of \$320 million seems to be holding strong. The lump-sum cash option is \$198.3 million.

Asia

China punishes North Korea for tests

BEIJING (AP)—China is trying to punish ally North Korea for its nuclear and missile tests, stepping up inspections of North Korean-bound cargo in a calibrated effort to send a message of Chinese pique without further provoking a testy Pyongyang government.

Freight handlers and trading companies at ports and cities near the North Korean border complain of more rigorous inspections and surprise checks that are raising the costs to doing business with an often unpredictable North Korea. Machinery, luxury goods and daily necessities such as rice and cooking oil are among the targeted products, the companies said, and business is suffering.

"Some business orders we don't dare take. We don't dare do that business because we fear that after the orders are taken, we will end up unable to ship them," said a Mr. Hu, an executive with Dalian Fast International Logistics Co. in the northeastern port city of Dalian, across the Yellow Sea from the North Korean port of Nampo. Hu said the company's business is off by as much as 20 percent this year.

North Korea's economic life-

line, China is showing signs of getting tough with an impoverished neighbor it has long supported with trade, aid and diplomatic protection for fear of setting off a collapse.

The moves to crimp, but not cut off trade with North Korea come as Beijing falls under increased scrutiny to enforce new U.N. sanctions passed after last month's nuclear test, Pyongyang's third. Targeted in the sanctions are the bank financing and bulk smuggling of cash that could assist North Korea's nuclear and missile programs as well as the luxury goods that sustain the ruling elite around leader Kim Jong Un. Pyongyang has reacted with fury and threatening rhetoric against South Korea and the U.S.

U.S. officials in Beijing for two days of talks to lobby China on enforcement said Friday that they were heartened by Chinese expressions of resolve. Spurring Beijing to cooperate, the U.S. officials said, is a concern that North Korean behavior had begun threatening China's interests in a region vital to its economic and security.

"There's reason to believe the Chinese are looking at the threat

in a real way," Treasury Undersecretary David Cohen told reporters.

China's change of tack with North Korea unlikely foreshadows a total end to Beijing's support. For Beijing, North Korea remains a pivotal strategic buffer between China and a U.S.-allied South Korea, and Chinese leaders worry that too much pressure could upend an already fragile North Korean economy and cause the Kim government to collapse, leaving Beijing with a security headache and possible refugee crisis.

But North Korea watchers said between blind support and complete abandonment there's much Beijing is doing and can do to try to rein in Pyongyang.

"We have to get away from the binary thinking that either they support North Korea or they pull the plug. That's not the way the world works," said Jonathan Pollack of the Brookings Institution, a Washington think-tank. "The interesting thing is not what happens at the UN but what happens beneath the radar in terms of what Chinese provide in economic aid and energy assistance."

UN Myanmar envoy visits ruined city after violence

MEIKHTILA, Myanmar (AP)—The top UN envoy to Myanmar toured a central city Sunday destroyed in the country's worst explosion of Buddhist-Muslim violence this year, calling on the government to punish those responsible for a tragedy that left dozens of corpses piled in the streets, some of them charred beyond recognition.

Vijay Nambiar, the U.N. secretary-general's special adviser on Myanmar, also visited some of the nearly 10,000 people driven from their homes after sectarian unrest shook the city of Meikhtila for several days this week. Most of the displaced are minority Muslims, who appeared to have suffered the brunt of the violence as armed Buddhist mobs roamed city.

Nambiar said he was encouraged to learn that some individuals in both communities had bravely helped each other and local religious leaders were now advocating peace.

"There is a certain degree of fear and anxiety among the people, but there is no hatred," Nambiar said after visiting both groups on Sunday and promising the world body would provide as much help as it can to get the city back on its feet. "They feel a sense of community and that it is a very good thing because they have worked together and lived together."

But he added: "It is important to catch the perpetrators. It is important that they be caught and punished."

Nambiar's visit came one day after the army took control of

the city to enforce a tense calm after President Thein Sein ordered a state of emergency here.

The bloodshed marked the first sectarian unrest to spread into the nation's heartland since two similar episodes rocked western Rakhine state last year. It is the latest challenge to efforts to reform the Southeast Asian country after the long-ruling military ceded power two years ago to a civilian government led by retired army officers.

There are concerns the violence could spread, and the bloodshed has raised questions about the government's failure to rein in anti-Muslim sentiment in a predominantly Buddhist country where even monks have armed themselves and taken advantage of newfound freedoms to stage anti-Muslim rallies.

to Xinhua's report Saturday.

Tornado in Bangladesh leaves 20 dead, 200 injured

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)—A tornado that ripped through 20 villages in eastern Bangladesh has killed 20 people and injured 200, a government official said Saturday. Initial reports said at least 10 people were killed and a newspaper put the toll for the injured at 500 in the storm that lashed the distant villages in Brahmanbaria district on Friday. On Saturday, local chief government administrator Noor Mohammad Majumder said the death toll had climbed to 20 people, with another 200 injured

in the powerful storm.

Deaths from attack on Pakistani soldiers up to 17

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP)—Officials say the number of soldiers killed from a car bomb attack on an army check post in Pakistan's northwest tribal region has risen to 17. Intelligence officials say the vehicle exploded next to two tankers that were supplying fuel to troops in the North Waziristan tribal area. The blast set the tankers on fire and destroyed two residential army barracks. The army said Sunday that 17 soldiers died. It initially said five were killed in the Saturday night bombing.

World

France confirms death of Al-Qaida chief



In this photo taken March 8, 2013 by the French Army Communications Audiovisual office (ECPAD) shows French soldiers patrolling in the Mettatai region in northern Mali.

PARIS (AP)—The death of a top al-Qaida-linked warlord in combat with French-led troops represents a victory in the battle against jihadists who had a stranglehold on northern Mali. But it is far from the defining blow against a wily enemy that can go underground and regroup to renew itself. Even the fearsome Abou Zeid is replaceable.

A top commander of al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb, Abou Zeid had been in the crosshairs of the French military and their African partners since they moved in to Mali on Jan. 11 to rout radicals seen as a threat to

northwest Africa and to Europe. An announcement Saturday by the French president's office that Abou Zeid's death in late February has been "definitively confirmed" ends weeks of speculation about his fate.

Abdelhamid Abou Zeid, an Algerian thought to be 47, was a pillar of al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb's southern realm, responsible for the death of at least two European hostages and a leader of the extremist takeover of northern Mali, which followed a coup d'etat a year ago. He joined a succession of radical insurgency movements in Alge-

ria starting in the early 1990s and became known for his brutality and involvement in high-profile hostage-taking.

President Francois Hollande's office said the death of Abou Zeid "marks an important step in the fight against terrorism in the Sahel," the borderlands where the Sahara meets the sub-Saharan jungle, encompassing several nations where radicals are on the rise.

French officials have maintained for weeks that the Abou Zeid was "probably" dead but waited to conduct DNA tests to verify.

Clashes near Syria-Israel frontier add to concerns

BEIRUT (AP)—Syrian regime forces routed rebels in fighting on the edge of the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights last week, leaving at least 35 dead, activists said Saturday, as the country's civil war reached the doorstep of the strategic plateau.

The rebel effort to overrun the Quneitra region along the cease-fire line separating Syria and Israel has heightened worries that Islamic extremists among those fighting President Bashar Assad could take over the front line with Israeli troops and gain

a potential staging ground for attacks on the Jewish state.

The frontier has largely been calm in the nearly four decades since the two countries fought a war over the Golan Heights that ended with a U.N.-monitored cease-fire. But Israeli military officials have expressed concern that a rebel takeover could upset the calm maintained by Assad and his predecessor and father the late Hafez Assad.

Those fears have been compounded by increasing influence wielded by extremist

groups over the divided rebels and the increasing international isolation of the regime.

"We are seeing terror organizations gaining footholds increasingly in the territory," said Lt. Gen. Benny Gantz, Israel's military chief at a conference in Israel last week. "For now, they are fighting Assad. Guess what? We're next in line."

One of the worst-case scenarios as Syria enters its third year of conflict is that neighboring countries such as Israel or Lebanon could be drawn in.

UK police: Russian tycoon Berezovsky found dead

LONDON (AP)—Boris Berezovsky, a self-exiled and outspoken Russian tycoon who had a bitter falling out with Russian President Vladimir Putin, was found dead in southeast England on Saturday. He was 67.

In recent years, the one-time Kremlin powerbroker-turned-thorn in Putin's side fended off verbal and legal attacks in cases that often bore political undertones—and bit into his fortune.

The cause of Berezovsky's death was not immediately clear, and Thames Valley police said it was being treated as "unexplained." The police would not

directly identify him, but when asked about Berezovsky by name they read a statement saying they were investigating the death of a 67-year-old man at a property in Ascot, a town 40 kilometers (25 miles) west of London.

Lawyer Alexander Dobrovinsky told Russian state TV that his client—who had survived assassination attempts in the past—lately had been in "a horrible, terrible" emotional state.

"All he had was debts," Dobrovinsky said. "He was practically destroyed. He was selling his paintings and other things."

A mathematician-turned-

Mercedes dealer, Berezovsky amassed his wealth during Russia's chaotic privatization of state assets in the early 1990s following the collapse of the Soviet Union. In return for backing former Russian President Boris Yeltsin, he gained political clout and opportunities to buy state assets at knock-down prices, making a fortune in oil and automobiles.

He also played a key role in brokering the rise of Yeltsin's successor, Vladimir Putin, in 2000. But Berezovsky later fell out of favor with Putin, and eventually sought political asylum in the U.K. in the early 2000s to evade fraud charges he contended were politically motivated.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Hailstorms kill 12 people in southern China

BEIJING (AP)—Hailstorms that hit southern China this week have killed 12 people, injured hundreds more and caused tens of millions of dollars in damage. The official Xinhua News Agency says nine people were killed in the city of Dongguan in southern Guangdong province after a Wednesday hailstorm. It says 272 others were injured from the storm, which caused economic losses of 357 million yuan (\$57.5 million). Three other people died from hailstorms that began Tuesday in neighboring Hunan province, where 1,900 houses have collapsed, according

Focus

When the president of Ohio's state school board posted her opposition to gun control, she used a powerful symbol to make her point: a picture of Adolf Hitler. When a well-known conservative commentator decried efforts to restrict guns, he argued that if only Jews in Poland had been better armed, many more would have survived the Holocaust.

In the months since the Newtown, Conn., school massacre, some gun rights supporters have repeatedly compared U.S. gun control efforts to Nazi restrictions on firearms, arguing that limiting weapons ownership could leave Americans defenseless against homegrown tyrants.

But some experts say that argument distorts a complex and contrary history. In reality, scholars say, Hitler loosened the tight gun laws that governed Germany after World War I, even as he barred Jews from owning weapons and moved to confiscate them.

Advocates who cite Hitler in the current U.S. debate overlook that Jews in 1930s Germany were a very small population, owned few guns before the Nazis took control, and lived under a dictatorship commanding overwhelming public support and military might, historians say. While it doesn't fit neatly into the modern-day gun debate, they say, the truth is that for all Hitler's unquestionably evil acts, his firearms laws likely made no difference in Jews' very tenuous odds of survival.

"Objectively, it might have made things worse" if the Jews who fought the Nazis in the 1943 Warsaw ghetto uprising in Poland had more and better guns, said historian Steve Paulsson, an expert on the period whose Jewish family survived the city's destruction.

But comparisons between a push by gun control advocates in the U.S. and Hitler have become so common—in online comments and letters to newspaper editors, at gun rights protests and in public forums—they're often asserted as fact, rather than argument.

"Absolute certainties are a rare thing in this life, but one I think can be collectively agreed upon is the undeniable fact that the Holocaust would have never taken place had the Jewish citizenry of Hitler's Germany had the right to bear arms and defended themselves with those arms," former Major League Baseball pitcher John Rocker wrote in an online column in January.

After some gun advocates rallied at New York's capitol in February carrying signs depicting Gov. Andrew Cuomo as Hitler, National Rifle Association President David Keene said the analogy was appropriate.

"Folks that are cognizant of the history, not just in Germany but elsewhere, look back to that history and say we can't let that sort of thing happen here," Keene, who was the lead speaker at the rally, told a radio inter-



Gun rights advocates demonstrate outside the Capitol in Albany, N.Y. on Thursday, Feb. 28, 2013. The group rallied against the recently legislated NY SAFE Act and other measures they say infringe on their constitutional right to bear arms. The Anti-Defamation League, a Jewish civil rights group, is calling on critics of gun control to keep Hitler and the Nazis out of the debate. The rhetoric "is such an absurdity and so offensive and just undermines any real understanding of what the Holocaust was about," said Ken Jacobson, the ADL's deputy national director. "If they do believe it, they're making no serious examination of what the Nazi regime was about."

Hitler joins gun debate, but history is in dispute

By ADAM GELLER
AP NATIONAL WRITER

viewer March 1.

Those comparisons between gun control now and under Hitler joined numerous other statements, including the one by the Ohio school board president, Debe Terhar, on her personal Facebook page in January and by conservative commentator Andrew Napolitano, writing in *The Washington Times*.

The comparisons recently prompted the Anti-Defamation League, a Jewish civil rights group, to call on critics of gun control to keep Hitler and the Nazis out of the debate.

The rhetoric "is such an absurdity and so offensive and just undermines any real understanding of what the Holocaust was about," said Ken Jacobson, the ADL's deputy national director. "If they do believe it, they're making no serious examination of what the Nazi regime was about."

But some gun rights advocates firmly disagree.

"People who fail to learn

from history are doomed to repeat it," said Charles Heller, executive director of Jews for the Preservation of Firearms Ownership, which has long compared U.S. gun control to Nazi tactics. "I guess if you're pro-Nazi, they are right. But if you're pro-freedom, we call those people liars."

Comparing gun control activism to Hitler is not new. In a 1994 book, "Guns, Crime and Freedom," NRA Executive Vice President Wayne LaPierre wrote that "In Germany, firearm registration helped lead to the Holocaust."

But the history of civilian gun ownership under the Nazis, scholars say, is far more complicated than the rhetoric indicates.

After World War I, Germany signed a peace treaty requiring dismantling of much of its army and limiting weapons import and export. But many of the 1 million soldiers returning home joined armed militias, including a Nazi Par-

ty force that saw Communists as the leading threat.

"Technically, they (the militias) were illegal and the guns were illegal, but a lot of government officials didn't care about right-wingers with guns taking on Communists," said David Redles, co-author of "Hitler and Nazi Germany: A History," a popular college text. By 1928, however, officials decided they had to get a handle on the militias and their weapons and passed a law requiring registration of all guns, said Redles, who teaches at Cuyahoga Community College in Cleveland.

Soon after Hitler was named chancellor in 1933, he used the arson of the Reichstag as an excuse to push through a decree allowing for the arrest of many Communists and the suspension of civil rights including protections from search and seizure. But as the Nazis increasingly targeted Jews and others they considered enemies, they moved in 1938 to loosen gun

statutes for the loyal majority, said Bernard Harcourt, a University of Chicago professor of law and political science who has studied gun regulations under Hitler.

The 1938 law is best known for barring Jews from owning weapons, after which the Nazis confiscated guns from Jewish homes. But Harcourt points out that Hitler's gun law otherwise completely deregulated acquisition of rifles, long guns and ammunition. It exempted many groups from requiring permits. The law lowered the age for legal gun ownership from 20 to 18. And it extended the validity of gun permits from one year to three years.

"To suggest that the targeting of Jews in any of the gun regulations or any of the other regulations is somehow tied to Nazis' view of guns is entirely misleading," Harcourt said, "because the Nazis believed in a greater deregulation of firearms. Firearms were viewed, for the

good German, were something to which they had rights."

With the 1938 law, Nazis seized guns from Jewish homes. But few Jews owned guns and they composed just 2 percent of the population in a country that strongly backed Hitler. By the time the law passed, Jews were so marginalized and spread among so many cities, there was no possibility of them putting up meaningful resistance, even with guns, said Robert Gellately, a professor of history at Florida State University and author of "Backing Hitler: Consent and Coercion in Nazi Germany."

U.S. gun rights advocates disagree, pointing to the 1943 Warsaw ghetto uprising by about 700 armed Jews who were able to fend off a much larger force of German troops for days until retreating to tunnels or fleeing. The Nazis won out by systematically burning the ghetto to the ground, house by house.

"Once the Germans began adopting that strategy there really wasn't very much that people armed with pistols, or even rifles and machine guns, could do," said Paulsson, the historian and author of "Secret City: The Hidden Jews of Warsaw."

Paulsson said it is possible that if Polish Jews had limited their resistance, Nazi troops might not have destroyed the ghetto, allowing more to survive in hiding or escape. When armed Jews shot at mobs or troops at other times in 1930s and 1940s Poland, it incited more vicious counterattacks, he said.

But to Heller, the gun rights activist, the Warsaw uprising is proof of power in firearms. Giving Jews more guns might not have averted the Holocaust, but it would have given them a fighting chance, enough that perhaps a third of them could have shot their way out of being marched to the concentration camps, he said.

"Could they have fought back? They did (in Warsaw). You know why they (the Nazis) destroyed the ghetto? Because they were afraid of getting shot," he said. "Now, will it get to that in the U.S.? God, I hope not. Not if (U.S. Attorney General Eric) Holder doesn't start sending people to kick doors down."

But Paulsson, whose mother was freed from the Auschwitz concentration camp at the end of the war, dismisses that argument as twisting the facts.

"Ideologues always try to shoehorn history into their own categories and read into the past things that serve their own particular purposes," he said.

Health & Fitness

Health officials: 1 in 50 school kids have autism

NEW YORK (AP)—A government survey of parents says 1 in 50 U.S. schoolchildren has autism, surpassing another federal estimate for the disorder.

Health officials say the new number doesn't mean autism is occurring more often. But it does suggest that doctors are diagnosing autism more frequently, especially in children with milder problems.

The earlier government estimate of 1 in 88 comes from a study that many consider more rigorous. It looks at medical and school records instead of relying on parents.

For decades, autism meant kids with severe language, intellectual and social impairments and unusual, repetitious behaviors. But the definition has gradually expanded and now includes milder, related conditions.

The new estimate released Wednesday by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention would mean at least 1 million children have autism.

The number is important—government officials look at how common each illness or disorder is when weighing how to spend limited public

health funds.

It's also controversial.

The new statistic comes from a national phone survey of more than 95,000 parents in 2011 and 2012. Less than a quarter of the parents contacted agreed to answer questions, and it's likely that those with autistic kids were more interested than other parents in participating in a survey on children's health, CDC officials said.

Still, CDC officials believe the survey provides a valid snapshot of how many families are affected by autism, said Stephen Blumberg, the CDC report's lead author.

The study that came up with the 1-in-88 estimate had its own limitations. It focused on 14 states, only on children 8 years old, and the data came from 2008. Updated figures based on medical and school records are expected next year.

"We've been underestimating" how common autism is, said Michael Rosanoff of Autism Speaks, an advocacy group. He believes the figure is at least 1 in 50.

There are no blood or biologic tests for autism, so diagnosis is not an exact science. It's

identified by making judgments about a child's behavior.

Doctors have been looking for autism at younger and younger ages, and experts have tended to believe most diagnoses are made

in children by age 8.

However, the new study found significant proportions of children were diagnosed at older ages.

Dr. Roula Choueiri, a neuro-

developmental pediatrician at Tufts Medical Center in Boston, said she's seen that happening at her clinic. Those kids "tend to be the mild ones, who may have had some speech delays, some

social difficulties," she wrote in an email. But they have more problems as school becomes more demanding and social situations grow more complex, she added.

105 US kids died of flu; most didn't get vaccine

NEW YORK (AP)—The flu season is winding down, and it has killed 105 children so far—about the average toll.

The season started about a month earlier than usual, sparking concerns it might turn into the worst in a decade. It ended up being very hard on the elderly, but was moderately severe overall, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Six of the pediatric deaths were reported in the last week, and it's possible there will be more, said the CDC's Dr. Michael Jhung said Friday.

Roughly 100 children die in an average flu season. One exception was the swine flu pandemic of 2009-2010, when 348 children died.

The CDC recommends that all children ages 6 months and older be vaccinated against flu each season, though only about half get a flu shot or nasal spray.



AP

This Thursday, Jan. 10, 2013 photo shows vials of flu vaccine in Philadelphia.

All but four of the children who died were old enough to be vaccinated, but 90 percent of them did not get vaccinated, CDC officials said.

This year's vaccine was considered effective in children, though it didn't work very well

in older people. And the dominant flu strain early in the season was one that tends to cause more severe illness.

The government only does a national flu death count for children. But it does track hospitalization rates for people 65 and

older, and those statistics have been grim.

In that group, 177 out of every 100,000 were hospitalized with flu-related illness in the past several months. That's more than 2 1/2 times higher than any other recent season.

US pediatricians back gay marriage, cite research

CHICAGO (AP)—The nation's most influential pediatrician's group says gays should be allowed to marry to help ensure the health and well-being of their children.

The American Academy of Pediatrics' new policy, published online Thursday, cites research showing that the parents' sexual orientation has no effect on a child's development. Kids fare just as well in gay or straight families when they are nurturing and financially and emotionally stable, the academy says.

The academy believes that a two-parent marriage is best equipped to provide that kind of environment. Their policy says that if a child has two gay parents who choose to marry, "it is in the best interests of their children that legal and social institutions allow and support them to do so."

The policy cites reports indicating that almost 2 million U.S. children are being raised by gay parents, many of them in states that don't allow gays to marry.

The academy announced its position Thursday. Officials with the group said they wanted to make the academy's views known before two gay marriage cases are considered by the U.S. Supreme Court next week.



AP

In this Feb. 27, 2013 file photo, Dr. Paul Melchert, left, gets interrupted by son, Emmett, as he attempts to address the media while his partner James Zimmerman, right, holds twin, Gabriel, during a news conference in St. Paul, Minn., where lawmakers introduced a bill to legalize gay marriage in Minnesota.

"We wanted that policy statement available for the justices to review," said Dr. Thomas McInerney, the academy's president and a pediatrician in Rochester, N.Y.

The pediatricians' gay marriage stance is not surprising. They previously joined other national groups including the American Medical Association in supporting one of the Supreme Court cases, which contends the Defense of Marriage Act is unconstitutional. The academy also previously sup-

ported adoption by gay parents.

The academy's statement notes that several other national health groups have supported gay marriage. Those are the American Academy of Family Physicians, the American Psychiatric Association, the American Psychological Association and the American College of Nursing.

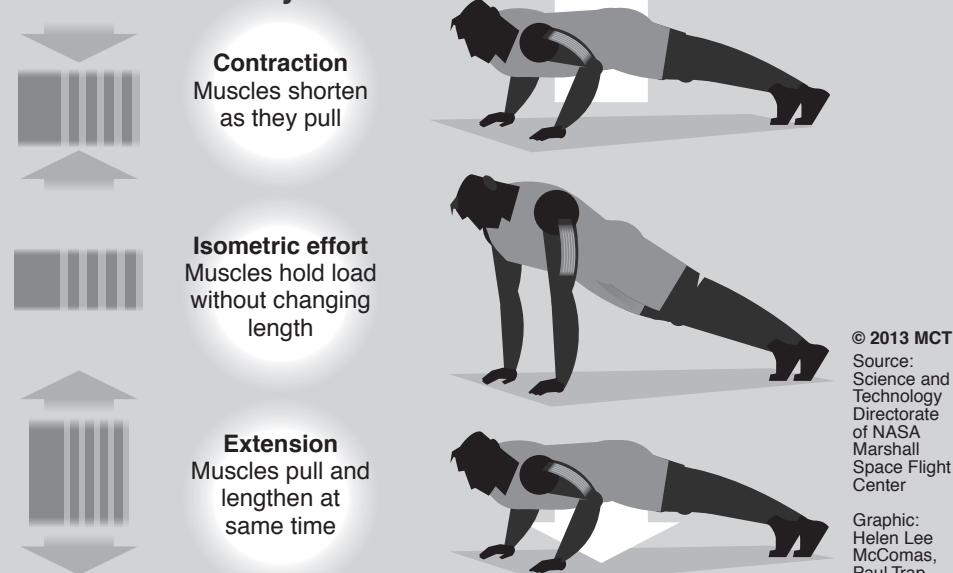
Dr. Ben Siegel, a Boston pediatrician and chairman of the committee that developed the new policy, said its focus is on "nurturing children. We want what's best for children."

Personal Trainer

Why working out works

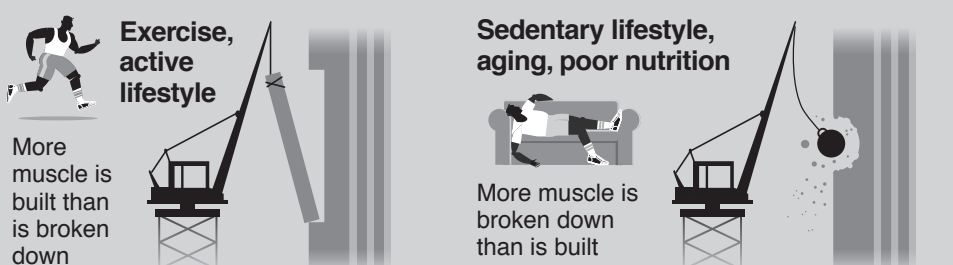
Muscles change in response to work they have done.

Muscles work three ways



Muscles are constantly built, torn apart

Enzymes constantly break down old protein fibers in muscles and control the making of new ones



All three types of movement make muscles grow larger, but isometric exercise does not promote muscle cell construction

Life & Style

‘Book of Mormon’ smashes 1-day box office record

NEW YORK (AP)—The seemingly unstoppable hit “The Book of Mormon” has broken another record—this time on the other side of the Atlantic.

The quirky, profane musical opened Thursday night to some critical bashing, but the next day earned the highest one-day gross in London theater history.

Between 10 a.m. and midnight Friday, 2,107,972 million pounds (\$3.2 million) worth of tickets were sold at the box office, according to final figures. By comparison, the Broadway version only earned \$1.5 million the day after it opened to rapturous reviews.

“London can be tough,” Scott Rudin, an influential theater and film producer who has steered “The Book of Mormon,” said by phone Friday night after flying back from England. “American

musicals tend to get knocked in the teeth in London, by and large. It’s a tougher place.”

The show is now booked at the Prince of Wales Theatre until January, but Rudin predicts it may be in London for a long time to come.

The \$3.2 million windfall is technically higher than the current West End and Broadway one-day record of \$3.1 million that poured in the day after “The Producers” opened on Broadway in 2001, but that haul hasn’t been adjusted for inflation.

“The Book of Mormon” by “South Park” creators Trey Parker and Matt Stone and “Avenue Q” composer Robert Lopez tells the story of two Mormon missionaries sent to spread the word in Uganda.

In New York, “The Book of Mormon” won nine Tony

Awards in 2011, including best musical. The show also won a Grammy Award and recouped its \$11.4 million capitalization after just nine months. It remains the toughest ticket to get on Broadway.

A production has opened in Chicago—it set a house record for the Bank of America Theatre and has been extended three times until September—and a national tour kicked off in August in Denver, where it has broken box office records as it crosses the country.

The tour is currently in Detroit—where it already has broken the Fisher Theatre’s house record for a standard eight-performance week—through the weekend, and then goes to Pittsburgh, Boston, Toronto, Cleveland and Washington, D.C.

In London, most critics

praised the production’s skill and the English cast’s energy, though some were left uncharmed, including the Daily Mail critic, who “tired of it after 10 minutes.” The Guardian called it “mildly amusing.”

Rudin said despite some grousing by London critics, the crowds have been enthusiastic, particularly the English fans of “South Park.” Pent-up demand for the show has been roiling since the New York opening. And, unlike in New York, London audiences knew what to expect.

Though Rudin admits he was anxious in the days leading to the London opening, he recognized that the show’s humor—jokes about African dictatorships, AIDS and poverty—would translate.

“The story and humor of ‘The Book of Mormon’ is deeply influenced by Monty Python’s Flying Circus,” he said. “I knew that would work over there.”

The West End has just enjoyed its ninth successive year of record box office returns and attendance went up slightly in

2012 to 13.9 million. This season, in addition to “The Book of Mormon,” the West End is hosting the musicals “Once” and “Charlie and the Chocolate Family” and plays with Helen Mirren and by John Logan.

Rudin, who has also produced the films “No Country for Old Men” and “The Social Network,” has been busy on Broadway this season, putting on the Scarlett Johansson-led “Cat on a Hot Tin Roof” revival and the upcoming “The Testament of Mary.”

‘Croods’ stars cringe at sound of their own voices

NEW YORK (AP)—They’ve both helped make millions at the box office and are two of Hollywood’s most sought after talents, but “The Croods” voice stars Ryan Reynolds and Emma Stone say they still get self-conscious hearing themselves on film.

“It’s like hearing your voice back on a voicemail,” said the 24-year-old Stone, who is known for her trademark raspy voice. “I still can’t believe I sound like this.”

“I can’t believe you sound like this either,” joked the 36-year-old Reynolds in the same recent interview. He went on to confess that “everyone feels that way—like there’s some solace in that. I think everyone feels like that when they hear their own voice. (It sounds) kind of shrill and brutal.”

They’re going to have to get used to it. The animated “Croods” opened Friday on more than 4,000 domestic screens amid predictions it will be the weekend’s No. 1 movie.

The 3-D film, which also stars Nicolas Cage, takes place in prehistoric times and focuses on the world’s first family, the Croods. Stone is a teen girl named Eep, who longs to leave her cave and see what’s out there. Her father, voiced by



This March 10, 2013 file photo shows actors Ryan Reynolds, left, and Emma Stone at “The Croods” premiere in New York. AP

Cage, is overly protective. One day they meet a guy named Guy, played by Reynolds. The Croods and Guy venture out together and learn about the world.

This is the first time Reynolds and Stone have done an animated movie, and they hope it rates with some of their own

childhood favorites.

Reynolds says he was a fan of the TV show “Thunder Cats” and adds “Smurfs” was pretty good, too. “Not a turn on but a good cartoon nonetheless.”

Stone’s animated faves? “I loved ‘Peter Pan’ and ‘Alice in Wonderland.’”

Boyle: Queen volunteered for Olympics Bond spoof

LONDON (AP)—Queen Elizabeth II needed no convincing to appear in a James Bond-themed skit during the opening ceremony of the London Olympics—in fact, she volunteered, according to the show’s director.

Director Danny Boyle says he had initially thought a look-alike—possibly actress Helen Mirren—would play the role of Elizabeth alongside Bond actor Daniel Craig.

He tells ITV’s Jonathan Ross in an interview to air Saturday

night that when he sought permission from officials to film the skit he heard back that not only was the video a go, but the monarch herself wanted to be in it.

Boyle says that when filming began, the queen asked him if he thought she should have a line, to which he replied “O.K., what do you suggest?”

“She said ‘I’ll do something’ and we started shooting and she turned round and she said her lines beautifully,” he said, according to excerpts of the inter-

view released in advance.

The queen’s star turn in the skit was considered one of the highlights of the opening ceremony last year.

In the skit, a tuxedo-clad 007 strides into Buckingham Palace to escort his VIP guest to the Olympic ceremony. In her acting debut, Elizabeth swivels around in her desk chair to face the legendary spy and declares: “Good evening, Mr. Bond.”

Two of the queen’s corgi dogs also appeared in the clip.

Ellen DeGeneres wows audience for Aussie filming

SYDNEY (AP)—Ellen DeGeneres was applauded by a rapturous Aussie audience like a cherished part of the family as she introduced her Australian-born wife, Portia de Rossi, on a Sydney Harbour-side stage on Saturday to begin pre-recording Down Under segments for her popular U.S. TV show.

The Emmy Award-winning talk-show host arrived in Sydney with her mom, Betty DeGeneres, and de Rossi on Friday after a 14-hour flight from Los Angeles for a six-day filming trip to Australia.

“I’m moving here, it’s so

beautiful,” DeGeneres told 3,000 admirers, who were clearly delighted to be in the sun-bathed Royal Botanic Gardens near the Sydney Opera House for the two-hour recording despite the 30-degree Celsius (86-degree Fahrenheit) early afternoon heat.

Guests included Oscar-winning actor and Sydney local Russell Crowe. He presented the 55-year-old host with two kangaroo-hide cattle whips that he said DeGeneres might need to catch “some brumbies”—an Australian term for wild horses—when she visits Australia’s southeast. The pair took turns

at whip cracking.

Asked by one emotional fan whether she and her wife would adopt her, DeGeneres replied, tongue-in-cheek: “We were just saying we should adopt someone. It’s so easy for us.”

The show was packed with games involving audience members, including an Australia-themed trivia event in which fans had to take a harbor plunge for a wrong answer.

“The Ellen DeGeneres Show” is in its 10th season. DeGeneres was honored with the Mark Twain Prize for American Humor last year.

In Celebration of his New Life

VINCENT PALACIOS DELEON GUERRERO

Lovingly known as “Ben Charing/Kumoi”

Born on November 12, 1976 and was called to Eternal Life on March 16, 2013

In his new life, he now joins his:

Mother: Rosario Tudela Palacios

Grandparents: Joaquin Muna & Francisca Tudela Palacios, Jesus Diaz & Josepha Santos Deleon Guerrero

Uncles & Aunts: Esteban I. Pangelinan, Augustin T. Palacios, Herman T. Palacios, Vicente S. & Dolores T. Deleon Guerrero, Francisco S. & Elizabeth C. Deleon Guerrero, Maria Muña Palacios

Niece: Denise Zayleen Palacios Tenorio

Nephew: Josef Joachin Palacios Deleon Guerrero

His memories will forever live in the hearts of his:

Father: Ramon Santos Deleon Guerrero (Kumoi) & Romana A. Villagomez

Loving Friend: Juanet A. Camacho & children

Siblings: Zeniva T. Palacios, David & Karen Palacios, Tina Marie P. & Erwin Flores, Jessica Palacios & children, Josie DLG. & John Siguenza, Glenn D. & Vanessa Diaz, Renee Rose D. & Gus Cruz, Raymond K. DLGuerrero, Pasqual K. & Joannie DLGuerrero, Joseph K. DLGuerrero, Simon V. & Marylou Deleon Guerrero, Jeremiah & Brittney DLGuerrero, Frankie V. DLGuerrero

Aunts & Uncles: Connie P. Pangelinan, John & Susan Schwarz, Esperanza U. Palacios, Joyce Palacios, Daniel T. Palacios, Isabel DLG. & Jesus Campos, Angie DLG. & Flor Balecha, Cathy DLG. & Jesus Quinata

Godchildren: Sky Gusteen L. Palacios, Joey Dean (JD) P. Aldan, Rocco Iskawa

He is additionally survived by numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, aunts, uncles and close friends

Mass for the repose of his soul is being offered daily at 6:00 p.m., followed by the Holy Rosary at San Antonio Church.

Funeral Service will be held on Tuesday, March 26, 2013. Viewing and last respects will be from 7:30AM – 9:00AM at the Borja Funeral Home. His remains will be escorted from Borja Funeral Home to San Antonio Church at 9:30AM. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00 a.m. followed by Interment Service at Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

Thank You, Si Yu’us Ma’ase for your presence, thoughts, and prayers

The Family

Depp, Stewart win at slimy Kids Choice Awards



Kristen Stewart accepts the award for favorite movie actress for "The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2" at the 26th annual Nickelodeon's Kids' Choice Awards on Saturday, March 23, 2013, in Los Angeles. AP

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Johnny Depp and Kristen Stewart avoided slime—mostly—while picking up blimp-shaped trophies at the Kids Choice Awards on Saturday.

The "Dark Shadows" star won as favorite movie actor at the 26th annual awards extravaganza, while the "Twilight" leading lady was selected as favorite movie actress and female butt-kicker.

"Dude, I was too much of a coward to accept this," she said embracing the slime slathered on the podium at the University of Southern California's Galen Center.

Pitbull and Christina Aguilera kicked off the silly show with

their song "Feel This Moment" and were joined by young backup dancers resembling the smooth-headed rapper and blonde diva. At the end of their performance, Aguilera smashed a button, covering Pitbull and the dancers in the show's signature green goo.

That was just the beginning of the celebrity sliming.

In one of his first acts as show host, "Transformers" star Josh Duhamel dumped the goop on Los Angeles Lakers player Dwight Howard.

"I guess that's what we call a slime dunk!" Duhamel said.

Sandra Bullock and Neil Patrick Harris caught a wave of the

green stuff after a magic trick from the "How I Met Your Mother" co-star went awry.

Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson, who picked up the trophy for male butt-kicker, blasted a sumo-suited Nick Cannon and Duhamel with the goo. The first few rows of the audience were also doused.

Duhamel said a record-breaking 350 million votes had been cast for this year's viewer-voted ceremony, which honors kids' favorites in film, music, sports and TV.

Other winners included "Victorious" as favorite TV show, Katy Perry as favorite female singer, Adam Sandler as fa-

vorite voice from an animated movie for "Hotel Transylvania," race car driver Danica Patrick as favorite female athlete and "The Hunger Games" as favorite movie and book.

"Always be nice to your parents," Sandler told the crowd of screaming kids while accepting his awards. "Always be nice to your teachers."

No charges for Lohan in NYC assault case

NEW YORK (AP)—New York City prosecutors will not charge Lindsay Lohan in an alleged fight at a Manhattan nightclub in November, an attorney for the actress said Friday.

Attorney Marc Heller said the Lohan faces no formal charges after prosecutors were unable to gather sufficient evidence to prove the case.

"She's totally clear and exonerated," Heller said. "She has nothing but smooth sailing ahead."

A spokeswoman for Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus Vance declined to comment.

Lohan was arrested Nov. 29 on a charge of misdemeanor assault after an encounter with a woman at the club Avenue in the city's trendy Meatpacking District.

Lohan's accuser, Tiffany Mitchell, was "disappointed" that the district attorney's office decided not to prosecute, said her attorney, Gloria Allred.

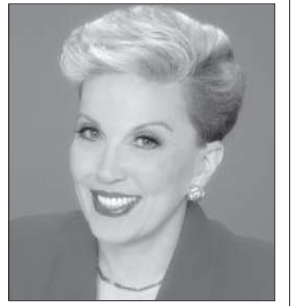
"Ms. Mitchell is considering all of her legal options in the civil justice system because of what she suffered that night," said Allred.

The district attorney's decision was welcomed news for "Liz and Dick" star, who accepted a plea deal Monday in a misdemeanor car crash case in California.

The troubled 26-year-old actress was sentenced to spend five days in jail, but that time will be served in a locked-down rehabilitation facility. The plea deal also includes 90 days in rehab, 30 days of community labor, 18 months of psychological counseling, a fine and restitution.

Neighbor's critical husband creates friction in friends

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



DEAR ABBY: My friend "Eden" recently told me her husband constantly compares her to me. It came up because she asked how I was feeling in my first trimester of pregnancy, and I confided that I have been having a tough time keeping up with my household duties.

Instead of sympathizing, she said, "Wow! I'll have to tell my husband that, because he's always talking about how clean your house is and how you cook dinner for your family every night."

I was really hurt that she was taking pleasure in my failures. I also felt uncomfortable that her husband compares her unfavorably to me. It isn't the first time she has mentioned how he talks about me.

I have distanced myself, hoping things would get better, but when I see her, she invariably manages to get in a little "dig." I'm unsure how to handle this. We're neighbors and have mutual friends. I thought we were friends, but now I realize she harbors some resentment toward me for something I didn't cause. Help!

NO CONTEST IN MARYLAND

DEAR NO CONTEST: Unless Eden's husband stops using you as the cudgel to beat her down with, you can forget being friends. A way to handle it would be to talk to her husband and say, "Please stop comparing me to your wife because it is affecting our friendship!"

DEAR ABBY: Whenever my best friend smells a cough drop, she comments that it's "rude" to eat one in public and that if someone is sick, the person should stay home.

I would much rather smell someone's cough drop than listen to coughing during an entire movie or opera. Some people may have bought expensive tickets to a show only to get sick the day before or have allergies that cause them to cough.

So is it rude to eat a cough drop in public or not?

UNBOTHERED IN TEXAS

DEAR UNBOTHERED: If it was bad manners to pop a cough drop into one's mouth in public, more than a few large brands would be out of business. While I agree with your friend that if people are sick they should stay home, some coughs linger beyond the stage when they are contagious.

I do NOT think that because someone bought expensive tickets to an event and gets sick the day before that it's all right to attend anyway and risk infecting everyone within "cough-shot." The considerate thing to do is to cancel and ask for a refund.

DEAR ABBY: I have a friend in another state who has been posting on Facebook about her diagnosis of cancer. Her postings started in October, followed by more postings about delay after delay in the treatment.

First it was insurance—she doesn't have any. Then it was multiple CAT scans and PETs. Now she's planning her own fundraiser, and I'm beginning to think she has made the whole thing up. It looks like there will be no treatment until after the fundraiser, even though she claims the cancer is stage 4. What do you think?

SUSPICIOUS IN NEW YORK

DEAR SUSPICIOUS: I think that if there is any doubt in your mind about this woman's character, you should not contribute. And I also think that if your suspicions are true, your friend is planning to commit fraud and could wind up "recuperating" in prison.

TO MY JEWISH READERS: Why is tonight different from every other night? Because Passover begins at sundown. Happy Passover, everyone!

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Autographed Sgt. Pepper album up for auction

DALLAS (AP)—Advance bids for a copy of The Beatles' "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band" album autographed by all four band members are even higher than the auction house anticipated.

Dallas-based Heritage Auctions said Friday that bidding for the 1967 album

has reached \$110,500 and could surpass \$150,000 by the March 30 auction. Heritage originally estimated the album would go for around \$30,000.

The Beatles signed the album on the gatefold above pictures of their heads.

The auction company's con-

signment director, Garry Shrum, says there's no telling when an autograph of such quality will show up again and "people are responding to that."

Shrum says the bidding seems to have "taken on a life of its own."

Bids started at \$15,000 and include the buyer's premium.

Tom Cruise sets up page on Russian social network

MOSCOW (AP)—Tom Cruise has become the first Hollywood star to set up a page on the popular Russian social network Vkontakte.

The "Mission Impossible" actor's page appeared Friday, announced by a message on Twitter saying "See you there!"

in Russian.

His profile picture is a poster for his new science fiction film "Oblivion," which comes out in Russia on April 11, two weeks before it opens in the U.S.

Cruise's page is a sign of Russia's increasing box office clout. Box office income rose 8 percent

last year to \$1.3 billion, the ninth-highest in the world, and is expected to grow 9 percent this year.

Vkontakte, which means "In Contact," dominates the Russian social media market with more than 40 million users—about 10 times as many as use Facebook.

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Tony Bennett excited about making album with Gaga

NEW YORK (AP)—They haven't hit the studio yet, but Tony Bennett says he "can't wait" to record his next album with Lady Gaga. The 86-year-old said in an interview Thursday that he and the pop star will record "a big swing album." He says "we have it all worked out already on paper." Bennett and Gaga collaborated on "The Lady Is a Tramp" for his Grammy-winning, platinum-selling 2011 "Duets II" album. He called the 26-year-old a "wonderful person and a great talent." Bennett released "Viva Duets," a collaborative album with Latin American singers including Gloria Estefan

and Marc Anthony, in October. He says he wants to work with Gaga because "she's quite different." He adds that he's also impressed with Gaga as a business woman.

My Chemical Romance breaks up after decade-plus

NEW YORK (AP)—The chemistry is over: rock outfit My Chemical Romance has disbanded. The New Jersey-based band announced Saturday that "it has come time for it to end." The foursome thanked fans in a statement and said the experience was "a true blessing." My Chemical Romance's sound is a mix of alternative, punk rock and pop. Band members re-

leased their debut album in 2002 but really made a splash on the music scene in 2004 with the platinum-selling "Three Cheers for Sweet Revenge." It featured the top-40 hit "Helena." They followed that with another platinum effort in 2006, "The Black Parade," earning their first top-10 pop hit with the song "Welcome to the Black Parade." The group said they've "shared the stage with people we admire, people we look up to, and best of all, our friends."

Rihanna drops in on Chicago-area high school

BARRINGTON, Illinois (AP)—Pop star Rihanna has dropped in on high school stu-

dents in a northwestern Chicago suburb. Barrington High School earned Friday's visit as a reward for winning the singer's "Shine Bright Like a Diamond" video contest. The five-minute, student-produced video highlighted the school's volunteer and community service programs. The Chicago Sun-Times reports that the singer told students she admired their passion and volunteerism. Rihanna showed up more than five hours late, but some in the crowd said she was worth the wait. She also posed for photos before heading off to her Friday night concert at Chicago's United Center. Barrington freshman Nisha Ali says "the fact that she came here and thanked us was a huge deal."

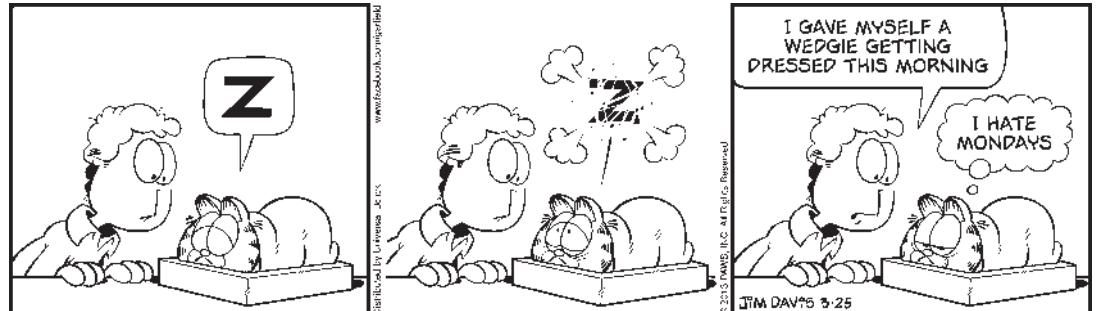
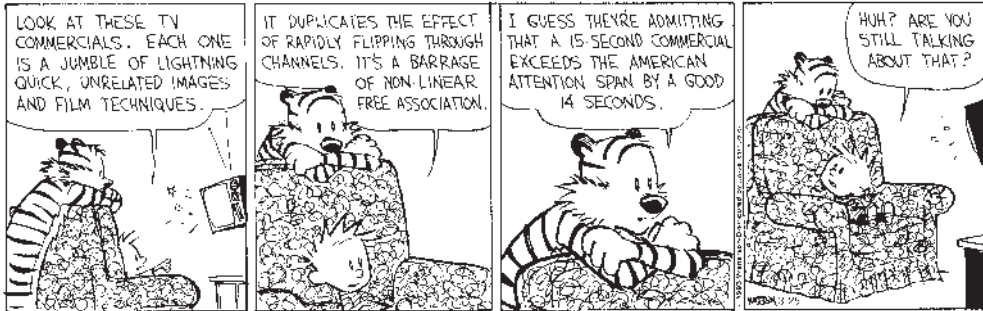
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

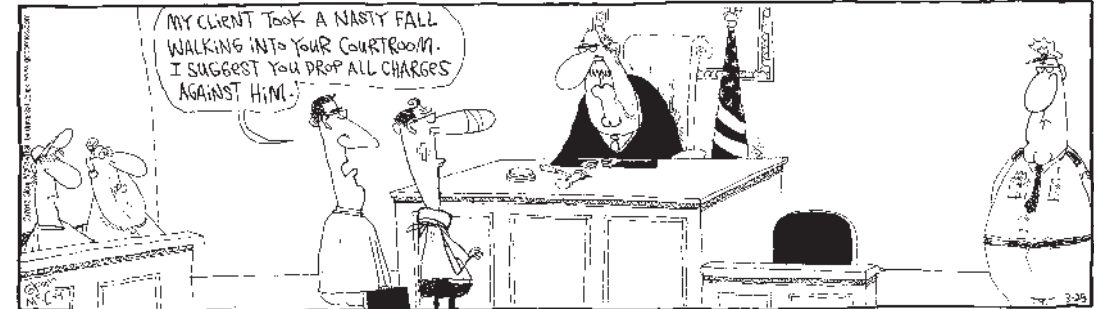
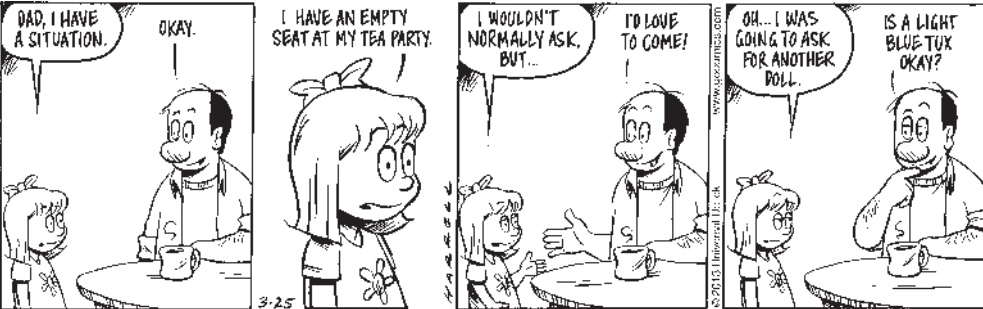


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Cookie container
4 Pen point
7 Castle protector
11 Quite eager
13 Bobby of hockey lore
14 Ames' state
15 Curtain-like mem-branes
16 Name in China's history
17 Masticate
18 Extem-porize
20 19th Hebrew letter
22 Arrest
24 Stay informed
28 Waist-band material
32 Aircraft
33 Mary's pet
34 Twitch

DOWN

1 Coffee
2 Elderly
3 Hot dog holder
4 — de plume
5 Mid-eastern nation
6 Stream
7 "Pieta" artist
8 Reaction to fireworks
9 Emotion eliciting
10 Caught sight of, to
12 "Blue Boy" artist
19 Cudgel
21 Energy morsel
25 Settled a bill
26 Loosen
27 Hammer-head part
28 Right angles
29 Cafe au —
30 Bullets et al.
31 U.S. spy org.
35 Letter-man's network
38 Sailor's domain
40 "That feels so good!"
42 Workers
45 Hastened
47 Puts on
48 Merriment
49 Otherwise
50 Weep
51 Colora-tion
52 — budget
54 Meadow

Solution time: 27 mins.

Friday's answer 3-25

PHOTO SAM EBB
SUNUP TOE LAO
INANE ONGOING
GARGLE WOKE
FEE AH E ANTSY
ERPS ANGLE
WASABI HFROES
CREPT ESP TRY
HALC PATIMA
ONEROUS PERIL
SIC USF FIIOF
ESI HEU SIOOD

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Danica Patrick, 31; Sarah Jessica Parker, 48; Elton John, 66; Aretha Franklin, 71.

Happy Birthday: Embrace change and challenge anyone who stands in your way. Broaden your outlook and expand your friendships to include people from different backgrounds. Silence your temper and refrain from complaining about what you cannot change. Focus on the present and how you can achieve the goals that will lead to your advancement. Love is on the rise. Your numbers are 4, 13, 20, 32, 36, 41, 49.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Keep busy and avoid temper tantrums. What you accomplish will be what speaks volumes about who you are and how responsible and reliable you can be. There will be plenty of time for romance once you have taken care of business. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Express your feelings. Learn all you can and you will be able to take advantage of a situation that develops with a partner or group. Let your intuition guide you and you will secure your position and enhance your reputation. *****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): If you exaggerate, you will give someone the opportunity to make you look bad. Excess will be your downfall and pitching in and lending a helping hand your salvation. You can get what you want if you take an honest approach. **

CANCER (June 21-July 22): By allowing changes to take place, you will lift what's blocking you from getting ahead. Learning a new skill or taking something you en-

joy doing and turning it into a second income will help you get past any setback you face. ****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You will attract attention. Don't miss out because someone is trying to monopolize your time. Focus on what you want to do and how you can get ahead. Mastering something that will allow you greater opportunities should be your quest. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Hold on to your cash. Don't let anyone bully you into something you don't want to do. Do your own thing and stick to the people you know well and trust. Someone is likely to make you an unrealistic promise. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Keep personal secrets and avoid an unpleasant situation. A change in an important relationship can be expected if you or the other person feels pressured. Meeting new people or reuniting with someone from your past will change your outlook. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Listen to your intuition. Follow your heart and it will lead to a better relationship with the people in your life who mean the most to you. A contract, settlement or investment will turn out to be prosperous. *****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't be fooled by someone playing emotional games with you. Concentrate on your home and domestic situation and you will bypass a temptation that can lead to trouble. Love is on the rise, and the right partner will enhance your life. **

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Caution must be taken. Verbal confrontations can lead to mishaps that are difficult to rectify. Put more effort into your job and your personal financial, medical and contractual obligations. Injury is likely if you overdo it physically. *****



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Good things come to those who wait. You will be able to finalize important plans. Getting together with someone you love can lead to a promise that will improve your life. An innovative idea can turn into a lucrative pastime. ***



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Set your standards high and follow your gut feelings. Don't let anyone push you or play with your emotions. An equal partnership is the only way you can move forward with anyone who wants to be in your life personally or professionally. ***



Birthday Baby: You are powerful, proud and intuitive. You are observant and responsible. Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com, Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on [twitter/facebook/linkedin](https://twitter.com/eugenialast).

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

		5	3					7	9	
						7	4	6		
			7					1		
9	1		3		5			2	7	
6										3
3	7		6		9			1	4	
			8					5		
					8	5	2			
	4	9						3	8	

Difficulty Level ★

3/25

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's SUDOKU Answer

5	3	2	9	8	1	7	4	6
7	9	1	2	4	6	3	5	8
4	8	6	5	7	3	2	1	9
1	2	8	4	5	9	6	7	3
6	5	3	1	2	7	9	8	4
9	4	7	6	3	8	1	2	5
2	6	9	8	1	5	4	3	7
8	7	4	3	9	2	5	6	1
3	1	5	7	6	4	8	9	2

Difficulty Level ****

3/22

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

THE OORT CLOUD

Solution: 5 letters

O	O	S	T	R	S	C	N	G	I	A	N	T	T	I
O	B	Y	B	F	O	O	E	S	N	E	D	L	O	C
R	J	S	S	R	I	C	L	E	N	E	R	G	Y	E
T	E	T	E	T	I	R	K	A	E	E	C	A	P	S
L	C	E	O	R	E	G	D	Y	R	D	I	S	K	C
E	T	M	R	E	V	M	H	I	P	I	D	Y	C	I
B	S	O	B	T	N	A	O	T	L	N	K	X	H	E
R	P	L	I	A	E	A	T	C	U	A	C	A	E	N
E	H	E	T	W	N	N	H	I	T	Y	A	L	M	T
P	E	C	S	P	T	H	A	T	O	C	L	A	I	I
I	R	U	L	P	E	C	S	L	E	N	B	G	C	S
U	I	L	L	O	R	T	T	U	P	M	S	A	A	T
K	C	A	I	B	U	U	A	A	N	D	E	S	L	S
A	A	R	H	H	Y	D	R	O	G	E	N	E	A	L
E	L	A	H	Y	A	K	U	T	A	K	E	S	L	M

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3/25

Ball, Black, Bopp, Bright, Chemical, Cloud, Cold, Comets, Core, Cyanide, Dense, Disk, Drift, Dutch, Energy, Enter, Galaxy, Gases, Giant, Hale, Hills, Hyakutake, Hydrogen, Ices, Inner, Kuiper Belt, Mass, Methane, Molecular, Motion, Objects, Observations, Oort, Orbits, Planet, Pluto, Rocky, Scientists, Sedna, Solar, Space, Spherical, Star, Sun, System, Water

Last Friday's Answer: Graphics

The New Treasury Word can be played by sending a text message to 311-666-6666 (Toll-free) or by mail to: The New Treasury Word, P.O. Box 1000, New York, NY 10108. The New Treasury Word is a registered trademark of Universal Jellick. All rights reserved. The New Treasury Word is a registered trademark of Universal Jellick. All rights reserved.

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

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• 5-Liner	\$24	\$45

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CANCELLATION

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

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- Prospective applicants will be subject to pre-employment drug test.

Opening Date: Mar. 25, 2013 • Closing Date: Mar. 27, 2013
Please submit résumé to saisteve@pticom.com

**CHEN YUE AYUYU dba
CYA Koblerville Market**

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Opening Date: March 20, 2013
Closing Date: March 28, 2013

Position: (1) Store Manager
Salary: \$5.55 - \$6.00/hour
Job Qualifications: Must have 2 yrs experience in managing retail operations. Chinese language highly preferred. A valid drivers license required. Flexible Time is required. Honest and trustworthy.

Interested applicants must have their own reliable transportation. Applicants must submit their resume at **CYA Koblerville Market**, located near St. Jude Church in Koblerville.

NO PHONE CALLS.

JAGUAR LIMITED dba: CLUB MERMAID

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

GENERAL MANAGER
Salary Rate: \$1,500.00 per month

ASSISTANT MANAGER
Salary Rate: \$5.55 per hour

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Must have at least 10 years experience as a **MANAGER OR ASSISTANT MANAGER** in operating a night bar or an entertainment business
- At least a College graduate preferably Accounting major
- Do Monthly Financial Analysis and Reports
- Knowledgeable in Peachtree accounting
- Can prepare and remit company taxes
- Do staff schedules and monitors inventory of the night club
- Full-time with flexible working hours
- Can speak fluently in Japanese language

Please email your resume to P.O. Box 502589 Saipan, MP 96950 or contact our Office at Tel.: (670) 233-1545 between 2:30PM to 9:00PM

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

STEEL WORKER (08) \$5.60 - 6.50 PER HOUR

Must be a high school graduate with minimum of 5 years experience as a steel worker with knowledge how to raise, place and unite iron or steel girders, R columns and structural members to form a completed structures or structural frameworks. May erect metal storage tanks and assemble prefabricated metal buildings. Position and secure steel bars or mesh in concrete forms in order to reinforce concrete. Use a variety of fasteners, rod-bending machines, blowtorches, and hand tools. Includes rod busters.

TRUCK DRIVER (10) -\$5.60 - 6.25 PER HOUR

Must be a high school graduate with minimum of 5-10 years experience as a truck driver with knowledge in Driving a factor-trailer combination or truck with a capacity of at least 26,000 GVW, to transport and deliver quarry materials, heavy equipment's or material in liquid, loose or packaged form.

PLUMBER (05) \$5.60-6.75 PER HOUR

Must be a high school graduate with minimum of 5-years experience as a plumber with knowledge to assemble, install alter and repair pipelines or pipe systems that carry water, steam, air or other liquids or gases. May install heating and cooling equipment and mechanical control systems. Includes sprinkler fitters assemble

CIVIL ENGINEERING TECHNICIANS (02) \$5.80 PER HOUR OR \$1,300.00 per month

Must be a college graduate with minimum of 5- years experience as a Civil Engineering Technician plumber with knowledge how to apply theory and principles of civil engineering in planning, designing and overseeing construction and maintenance of structures and facilities under the directions of engineering staff or physical scientists.

All positions close on March 29, 2013 . Interested applicants may apply at GPPC,INC. office located at As Perdido , Saipan. A copy of police clearance must be attached to the application. Incomplete application will NOT be accepted. Skills, testing maybe required. GPPC, INC is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

WORLD INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(2) GENERAL MAINTENANCE

Salary Rate: \$5.55 per hour

QUALIFICATIONS:

- At least 2 – 3 years experience in a Commercial Building Maintenance. Preferably in Carpentry and Masonry.
- Full-time with flexible working hours

Please mail your resume to PMB 654 Box 10000 Saipan, MP 96950 or contact our Office at Tel.: (670) 233-1545 between 2:30PM to 9:00PM.

JAGUAR LIMITED dba: CLUB MERMAID

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

SUPERVISOR
Salary Rate: \$10.00 - \$12.00 per hour
QUALIFICATIONS:

- Must have at least 5 - 10 years experience as a Supervisor in operating a night bar or an entertainment business.
- Do monthly financial analysis and reports.
- Do staff schedules and monitors inventory of the night club.
- Full-time with flexible working hours.
- Can speak fluently in Japanese language or Japanese citizen.

BARTENDER
Salary Rate: \$5.55 per hour
QUALIFICATIONS:

- Must have at least 3 - 5 years experience.
- Full-time with flexible working hours.

Please mail your resume to P.O. Box 502589 Saipan, MP 96950 or contact our Office at Tel.: (670) 233-1545 between 2:30PM to 9:00PM

JAPAN ENTERPRISES CORPORATION
DBA: CLUB MICRONESIA
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(3) WAITRESSES

Salary Rate: \$5.55 per hour

QUALIFICATIONS:

- At least 21 – 25 years old with pleasing personality
- 2 – 3 years experience as a waitress in a bar or an entertainment business
- Full-time with flexible working hours
- Can read and speak fluently in Japanese language

Please mail your resume to P.O. Box 502589 Saipan, MP 96950 or contact our Office at Tel: (670) 233-1545 between 2:30PM to 9:00PM.

PACIFIC BASIN INSURANCE COMPANY
Job Vacancy Announcement


Accountant (1) Insurance
Minimum experience of five years
Bachelor degree in Accounting
Knowledge in PeachTree Complete
Accounting Software

Insurance Underwriter (1)
Minimum experience of five years
Bachelor degree in Commerce or Education
Knowledge in Quickbook software

Interested applicants may apply at Pacific
Basin Insurance Co. office. An insurance
written test maybe required.

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(1) Sales & Marketing Coordinator. Salary: \$7-\$8/hr. With 2-4 years of work experience. Send resume to SMJ Corporation, P.O. Box 503944, Saipan, MP 96950.

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Fina Sisu Apt., 1-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. \$250/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nighttime security. \$600/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nighttime security. \$550. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

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LSG has an opening for the following:

- Admin Assistant
- Cook
- Cook Helper
- Merchandise Delivery Driver

Interested individuals may pick up an application in the guard station at the front gate.

We are located at Tun Herman pan Road and situated between the American Red Cross and the Historic Prevention Office.

St. Jude Renal Care Facility, Inc. Job Vacancy Announcement

(02) REGISTERED NURSE

- Must pass NCLEX-RN and current CNMI RN License
- Attended a hemodialysis training program
- Must hold a degree in Bachelor of Science in Nursing
- One to five years hemodialysis experience or related field
- English Language skill-Proficient in verbal, written and comprehension
- Certification in Basic Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation
- Certified Nephrology Nurse (CNN)-Preferred
- In-service train with Baxter phoenix machine
- Experience with Ameriwater bicarbonate distribution system
- Must be flexible with time schedule

Interested applicants must submit application or resume to St. Jude Renal Care Facility, Inc., at Chalan Kiya, Saipan. Deadline to submit application will be on 03/29/13 at 4:00 pm. For more information, please call Judy Arriola at (670) 234-2903 ext. 124.

S P O R T S

Tiger takes over at Bay Hill

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—The shot looked daunting to Tiger Woods, and so did the view from the bunker behind the eighth green at Bay Hill. Across a small lake was a large scoreboard that showed Justin Rose off to such a hot start that Woods was five shots behind and trying not to lose ground.

Two shots and two putts changed everything Saturday in the Arnold Palmer Invitational.

Woods hit what he called his best shot of the third round, a 6-iron from 196 yards that settled 12 feet below the hole on No. 15 to set up a birdie. Minutes later, he hit another 6-iron from 183 yards to 20 feet and slammed his fist toward the hole when he made eagle, his third in as three days.

Just like that, Woods was atop the leaderboard, a familiar spot for him on this golf course. He finished off his round of 6-under 66 with two pars, and when Rose lost energy and stumbled over the final hour, Woods had a two-shot lead.

And that's a daunting view for everyone chasing him.

Woods is 41-2 on the PGA Tour when he has the outright lead going into the final round.

"Just because I've won here doesn't ensure that I'm going to win the tournament," Woods said. "The conditions are different. The game might be different. But the objective is still to put myself in position to win the golf tournament and somehow get it done on Sunday. Over the course of my career, I've done a pretty decent job of that."

Woods was at 11-under 205, two shots ahead of Rickie Fowler (67), John Huh (71) and Rose, who through four holes Saturday was six shots ahead of Woods. Rose had a 39 on the back nine and wound up with a 72.

Rose had a three-shot lead on the back nine until he crumbled, making three bogeys over the last six holes. He attributed that to a lack of energy, perhaps from the muggy conditions, but didn't mind his position.

"I just wanted to go out and play a good round of golf," Rose said. "I wasn't too worried whether I was two ahead or two behind. The real day is tomorrow. Obviously, you don't want to give Tiger too many shots. The back nine was a shame, but today means nothing until tomorrow plays out. So hopefully, he doesn't go get hot tomorrow and then today is just a memory."

Rose didn't even make it into the final group.

Fowler dropped only one shot on a muggy day with a short burst of showers, closing with a par from the back bunker on the 18th. He will play with Woods in the final round

for the first time since the Memorial, where Woods closed with a 67 to win and Fowler had an 84.

Fowler was only three shots behind going into the final round of the Honda Classic at the start of the Florida swing and closed with a 74. He also had a bad Sunday at Doral (78), though he was never in serious contention. Without knowing where his 67 would leave him at Bay Hill, he sounded determined to finish stronger.

"It was disappointing to play the way I did those two Sundays, but I felt really good with where I was at, putting myself in position to go win a golf tournament or have a good finish and kind of taking myself out of it," Fowler said. "So it was a little bit of a kick in the butt to go out there and finish off tournaments. So I'm looking forward to tomorrow and seeing if we can go do that."

Nine players were separated by three shots going into the final round, though the dynamic takes on a different vibe at Bay Hill. Woods can tie a PGA Tour record for most victories at one tournament. Sam Snead won the Greater Greensboro Open eight times.

"I have a chance to win tomorrow," Woods said.

More than just another trophy, and another greeting from the King, are on the line Sunday.

Woods is one round away from returning to No. 1 in the world, a place he hasn't been since the last week in October in 2010. A year ago, Woods was No. 18 in the world and without a PGA Tour win for 2 1/2 years. Now he is going for his third tour victory this year, and sixth dating to Bay Hill last season.

"It was one of my goals to get back to that position after being out of the top 50 there for a while, being hurt and having all my points come off when I couldn't play," Woods said. "That was not a fun stretch. But I had to get healthy in order to compete, and so far I've had five wins on tour. So I'm heading in the right direction."

Thorbjorn Olesen of Denmark had a 66 and was in the group at 8-under 208, along with Jimmy Walker (70), Bill Haas (73), Ken Duke (70) and Gonzalo Fernandez-Castano of Spain, who played with Woods and had a 68.

Woods narrowly beat the Spaniard a year ago in the opening round of the Match Play Championship. Fernandez-Castano noticed a big difference one year later.

"He's definitely more comfortable," he said. "I remember at the Match Play, his routine was longer. You could see he wasn't confident with what he was doing."



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Nuggets win 15th straight, 101-95 over Kings



DENVER (AP)—Danilo Gallinari scored 19 points to lead a balanced attack as the Denver Nuggets extended their winning streak to 15 games with a 101-95 victory over the Sacramento Kings on Saturday.

Kenneth Faried had 17 points and nine rebounds for the Nuggets, who had all five starters in double figures in winning a franchise-best 17th straight game at home.

And they did it while Ty Lawson (right heel) and Wilson Chandler (shoulder), two of their top players, were out with injuries.

It took until the final minutes to hold off the Kings, who got 24 points and 15 rebounds from DeMarcus Cousins.

John Salmons, who finished with 18 points, hit a 3-pointer with 16 seconds left to get the Kings within four points, but Andre Miller sank two foul shots to seal the win.

Clippers 101, Nets 95

In Los Angeles, Chris Paul scored 17 of his 29 points in the fourth quarter after banging his left knee early in the game and Los Angeles held off Brooklyn in a matchup of playoff-bound teams.

Paul made 12 of 13 free throws and had 11 assists, Willie Green added 15 points, DeAndre Jordan had 13 points and 12 rebounds, and Blake Griffin scored 11 points for the Clippers, who improved to 28-8 at home and won their second in a row.

It was their franchise-record 10th consecutive victory against an Eastern Conference team.

The Nets were led by Brook Lopez and Deron Williams with 18 points each. Gerald Wallace and Joe Johnson added 15 points each and ex-Clipper Reggie Evans had 16 rebounds.

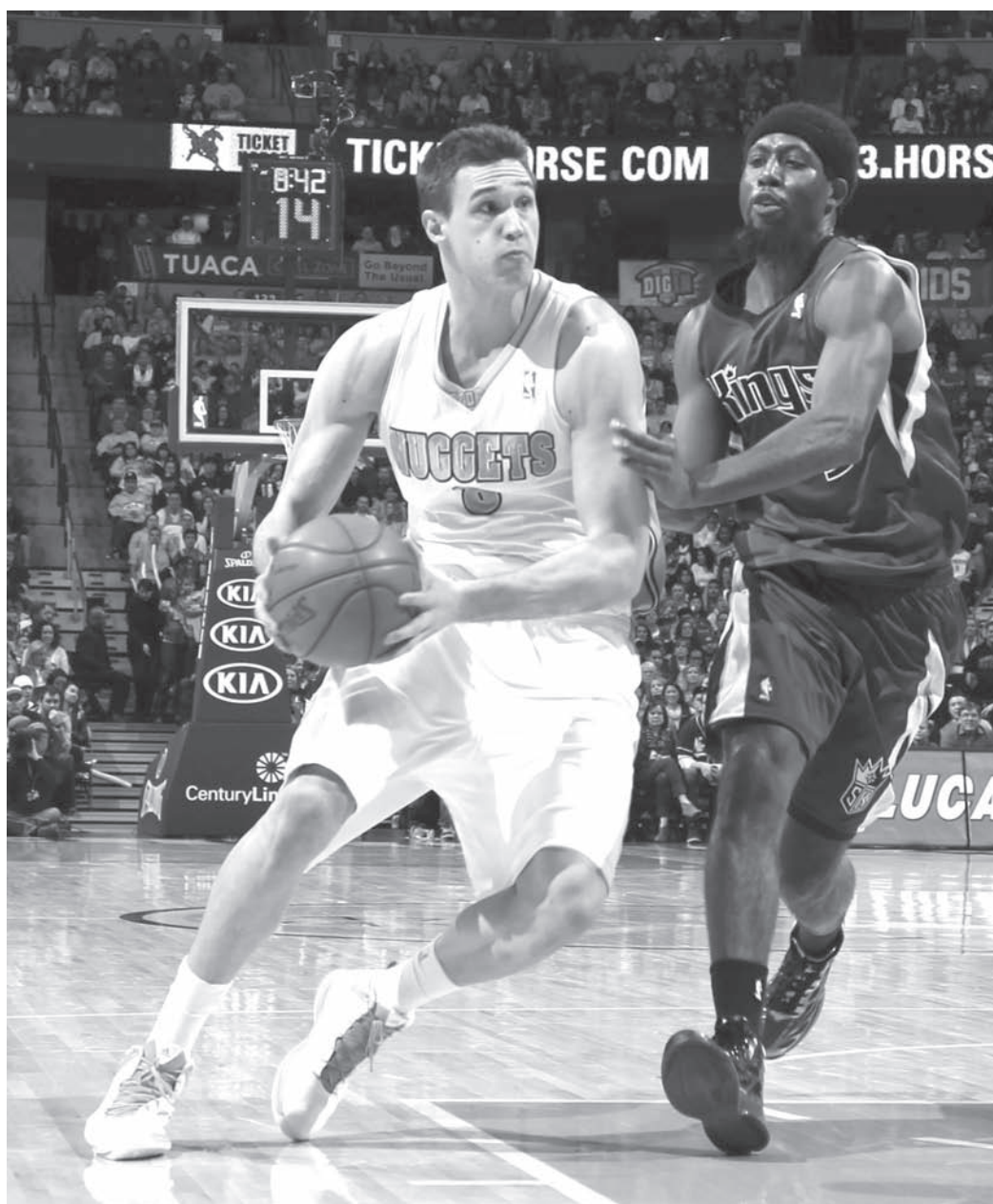
Bulls 87, Pacers 84

In Chicago, Luol Deng scored 20 points, Carlos Boozer had 18 and Chicago overcame the absence of starting center Joakim Noah to beat Indiana.

Deng had 13 points at half-time, but Chicago's reserves sparked the Bulls' second-half rally, outscoring Indiana's reserves 32-15. Taj Gibson scored 11, and Daequan Cook and Nate Robinson had nine apiece.

The Bulls went on a 13-5 run starting the fourth quarter to take an 81-72 lead. A four-point play by George Hill brought Indiana within 87-84 in the final minute. After a missed driving shot by Chicago's Kirk Hinrich with 16 seconds left, the Pacers had a chance to tie, but Paul George had two 3-point tries go off the rim in the final 10 seconds, including one at the final buzzer.

George led the Pacers with 23 points.



Denver Nuggets forward Danilo Gallinari, left, of Italy, drives for a shot as Sacramento Kings guard John Salmons defends during the third quarter of the Nuggets' 101-95 victory in an NBA basketball game in Denver on Saturday, March 23, 2013.

Grizzlies 110, Celtics 106

In Memphis, Tennessee, Jerryd Bayless scored a season-high 30

points and Memphis weathered a fourth-quarter rally by Boston's reserves to escape with the victory.

Seven Memphis players finished in double figures and three recorded double-doubles. Darrell Arthur, starting for Zach

Randolph, scored 18 points, while Randolph had 15 points and 11 rebounds off the bench.

Paul Pierce led Boston with 26 points, while Jordan Crawford keyed a fourth-quarter rally, scoring 14 of his 21 points in the final frame. The Celtics lost their fourth straight game.

Both teams played without key players. Kevin Garnett and Courtney Lee sat out for Boston with left ankle sprains. Memphis center Marc Gasol is out indefinitely because of an abdominal tear.

Knicks 110, Raptors 84

In New York, Carmelo Anthony scored 28 points, Kenyon Martin had another big game against Toronto to help New York finish off a home-and-home sweep of the Raptors.

J.R. Smith added 25 points for the Knicks, who beat the Raptors for the second straight night and won their fourth consecutive game. Martin had 18 points and seven rebounds, a night after he had 19 points and 11 rebounds in the Knicks' victory in Toronto that clinched a playoff berth.

DeMar DeRozan scored 17 points for the Raptors, who played without leading scorer Rudy Gay because of a bad back and lost their fourth straight.

Knicks guard Jason Kidd had three points, three rebounds and two assists on his 40th birthday.

Warriors 101, Wizards 92

In Oakland, California, Stephen Curry scored 35 points

before injuring his ankle late in Golden State's victory over Washington.

Curry and backcourt mate Klay Thompson hit 14 of their 22 combined shots in the first half and totaled 53 points in the first game of a five-game homestand.

Curry left with 6:03 left in the game after turning his right ankle after being fouled hard by Cartier Martin while driving to the hoop. Curry's right ankle has given him problems in the past.

Martin led Washington with a career-high 23 points.

Pistons 92, Bobcats 91

In Charlotte, North Carolina, Charlie Villanueva scored 14 of his 18 points in the fourth quarter, including a go-ahead driving layup with 15 seconds left, and Detroit beat Charlotte to snap a 10-game losing streak.

Villanueva hit three 3-pointers in the final period to help the Pistons avoid their longest losing streak since 2010.

Jason Maxiell added 14 points and Rodney Stuckey had 13 points and eight assists off the bench for the Pistons.

Kemba Walker had 25 points and Bismack Biyombo had 12 points and 10 rebounds to lead the Bobcats, who had their two-game winning streak snapped.

The NBA-worst Bobcats had the ball and a chance to win the game with 14 seconds left, but Walker missed an off-balanced leaner in the lane and Josh McRoberts' reverse layup after an offensive rebound didn't fall as time expired.

Strange as it sounds, Heat want to get better

MIAMI (AP)—The Miami Heat have won 25 straight games, turned what was a super-close Eastern Conference race into a runaway and seem to be finding different ways to prevail on a nightly basis.

And no, they are not particularly thrilled with themselves right now.

From the Heat perspective, it's almost like they are simultaneously slumping and streaking after facing double-digit deficits in three consecutive games, yet finding ways to win them all, much like each of the 22 games that preceded this week.

"I'm taking the world view, that we have room to improve," forward Shane Battier said. "By no stretch of the imagination are we playing our best basketball right now. We're winning ball games, but we have a lot of room for improvement. We have not started well the last couple games and our defensive focus has not been there. It's been there in the second half and when we need it, but we need to do it more consistently."

Even as they move closer to the NBA-record winning streak of 33 straight established by the Los Angeles Lakers in 1971-72, the bigger concern in the Heat locker room is that they are nowhere near a playoff gear with just 14 games remaining before the postseason arrives. They've trailed after five of their past six opening quarters, been losing at halftime in three straight outings and have been outshot in three of their last six contests.

The next opportunity to fix some of those issues comes Sunday at home against Charlotte (16-52)—a team that has won two straight, yet is a mere 38 games behind the Heat (54-14) in the East standings.

"It's on the radar, no question about it," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "We need to put together complete games. That's three games in a row where we haven't gotten off to that energetic start that we're looking for. We'll have an opportunity to get back to it on Sunday. No excuses. We're not making excuses for ourselves,

the schedule or anything. Just more consistency."

The latest close call wasn't exactly all that close. Miami trailed Detroit by 11 points on Friday night, before clamping down in the second half and pulling away for a 103-89 win, with LeBron James finishing with 29 points, eight assists and eight rebounds.

"We never expect anything to be easy," James said.

But the 17-point deficit at Boston (and a separate 13-point hole in the fourth quarter) that was followed by the 27-point lead Cleveland held over the Heat in a most bizarre game on Wednesday may be perceived as some warning signs, and the Heat freely acknowledge they have to be addressed.

At the same time, though, to say the reigning NBA champions are nervous about where they are right now would be a gross exaggeration.

"Everybody wants us to win by 30 every night," guard Dwyane Wade said. "Sorry, guys. It's not possible."

Wade said he has seen men-

tions on his Twitter timeline lately from fans who aren't exactly pleased with the close calls, with one mention saying that the Heat are causing heart attacks.

He doesn't see the in-game lulls as causes of angst. He sees them as fun.

"I think it's great for the game," Wade said. "Keep people entertaining, keep people watching, keep people in the stadium for most of the game."

For us, it doesn't matter if we're up or down. We play games within games. We go on runs at different times. We have a lot of confidence. We don't do it on purpose, but we have a lot of confidence in our team and we can go on runs very fast."

That's been proven.

Erasing the 13-point Boston lead in the final 8 minutes on Monday, a 45-12 run over a 12-minute stretch in Cleveland on Wednesday, a 19-8 start in the opening minutes of the fourth quarter to pull away from the Pistons for good on Friday, those are just the latest examples of what Wade says is

the Heat calling card.

In Spoelstra's eyes, it's helping the playoff-readiness process.

"Teams are coming at us. That's a good thing," Spoelstra said. "We can't sleepwalk into a game. We have to bring it, we have to play well at both ends, we have to dig, we have to earn wins and we're playing against our opponents' best games. That only helps. That sharpens you. The more you get tested in this league, the better you get, as long as you handle it the right way."

If the Heat beat Charlotte, the win streak goes to 26. And then yet another road test—the latest big challenge in a month where the Heat play a schedule loaded with 18 games and almost no practices—awaits, with games every other night starting Monday at Orlando, Chicago, New Orleans and San Antonio.

"I enjoy going on the road and hearing fans say, 'You guys suck,'" Wade said. "Really? We're not too bad. When the playoffs start, we're going to have to buckle down and it becomes a new season. But right now, in this season, man, we're enjoying it."

Wichita St.'s 3-pointers boot No. 1 Gonzaga, 76-70



SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—The No. 1 got taken down by a bunch of 3s.

Gonzaga is out of the NCAA tournament thanks to Wichita State, a No. 9 seed that made five straight shots from behind the arc Saturday for a 76-70 victory that sent the West Region's top seed—and the nation's No. 1 team during the regular season—back home.

"This is incredible for our team," said freshman guard Ron Baker, who hit four of the Shockers' season-high 14 3-pointers. "We came together down the stretch and pulled the upset off. This feeling is unimaginable."

Now Wichita State doesn't have to try and emulate fellow mid-major Gonzaga any more.

The Shockers (28-6) one-upped the Zags (32-3) on the NCAA tournament stage, and advanced to the Round of 16 for the first time since 2006. They are headed to Los Angeles to face the winner of Sunday's game between La Salle and Ole Miss.

Gonzaga became the first top seed to be eliminated, giving all the Zags' doubters an I-told-you-so moment. The Zags survived a scare in the second round against Southern but couldn't hold up against a Shockers team whose motto is "play angry."

Call it the Marshall plan, by 50-year-old Shockers coach Gregg Marshall.

He pulled his team aside after Gonzaga had made its big second-half run to take an eight-point lead.

"You know what I asked them? On Oct. 15, down eight with eight minutes to go, would you take it for the right to go to Los Angeles in the Sweet 16?" Marshall asked. "And they did it from there."

Cleanthony Early and Baker scored 16 points apiece, freshman Fred VanVleet added 13, Carl Hall had 10 and Tekele Cotton eight.

Baker called it the epitome of team.

While Baker hasn't been this deep in the tournament before, the Shockers are no stranger to the NAAs, with Saturday's win evening their record at 10-10. They earned a trip to the Final Four in 1965, the regional finals three times and most recently made it to the Round of 16 in 2006 before losing to George Mason.

Marshall also led Winthrop to seven NCAA tournament appearances during his nine seasons there.

Still, Wichita State hadn't fared so well against top-ranked teams. The last time they played one, in 1967, they lost by 34. That was UCLA, a team that went on to win its fourth of 10 titles during the Wooden era.

While Gonzaga held the top spot in the AP Top 25 over the final weeks of the season, skip-



Wichita State's Cleanthony Early (11) celebrates after his team defeated Gonzaga 76-70 during a third-round game in the NCAA men's college basketball tournament in Salt Lake City Saturday, March 23, 2013.

tics thought of the Bulldogs as a soft No. 1 seed that benefited from a relatively easy schedule in the West Coast Conference while other top contenders were getting banged around in the power conferences.

That's not to say the Bulldogs didn't fight, with Kelly Olynyk scoring 26 points to lead Gonzaga, and Kevin Pangos adding 19.

Gonzaga trailed by as many as 13 in the first half, was down 36-31 at the break, but came on strong early in the second half.

Wichita State was not intimidated.

"They never quit," Marshall said. "You know we got the big lead, Gonzaga makes a great run as a No. 1 team in the country would, and these guys dig down."

Shockers, for sure.

They showed their grit after Gonzaga's 12-0 run gave the Bulldogs a 49-41 lead with 11:53 left. Back-to-back 3-pointers by Kevin Pangos and Michael Hart started it, Olynyk hit a jumper then a pair of free throws, and Pangos capped it with a steal and fast-break layup.

But Wichita State outscored the Zags 35-21 from there.

The string of five straight 3s began when Tekele Cotton spotted up with 6:05 remaining and hit a shot that cut Wichita State's seven-point deficit to four.

It ended at the 1:28 mark when VanVleet, dribbling the ball between his legs, nearly lost it, but gathered himself and threw one up with 1 second left on the shot clock. It went in, the Shockers were ahead 70-65 and the rest of the game was a free-throw-shooting contest.

"I was just disappointed that with 1 second left that we even let him get a 3 off," Gonzaga

coach Mark Few said. "That was a mental error on our part."

The Shockers, who made just 2 of 20 3-pointers in their 18-point win over Pitt on Thursday, shot 50 percent from beyond the arc and 50 percent overall.

"They deserve a ton of credit," Few said. "It's the first time in a while someone made 50 percent on us, and to bang in 14 3s (overall) is pretty amazing."

It was another sudden end to an amazing ride for Gonzaga. The Bulldogs were playing in their 15th straight NCAA tournament but have not advanced past the Round of 16 since 1999.

Arizona 74, Harvard 51

In Salt Lake City, Arizona put an emphatic end to Harvard's March Madness success story.

Mark Lyons matched his career high with 27 points to lead the sixth-seeded Wildcats (27-7). Arizona sprinted to a 30-9 lead, as the Crimson (20-10) missed 20 of its first 22 shots.

Lyons led Arizona to the program's 15th appearance in the Sweet 16. The Wildcats will play Iowa State or Ohio State next week in Los Angeles.

Harvard, meanwhile, goes home with its first NCAA win in tow. The 14th-seeded Crimson beat third-seeded New Mexico on Thursday but couldn't recreate the magic.

Kenyatta Smith led Harvard with 10 points. Freshman Siyani Chambers lost part of his front tooth after Arizona's Kevin Parrom elbowed him in the face.

EAST REGIONAL Syracuse 66, California 60

In San Jose, Calif., C.J. Fair scored 18 points, James Southerland added 14 and fourth-seeded Syracuse survived a second-half

drought of more than 12 minutes without a field goal to beat No. 12 seed California.

The Orange (28-9) frustrated California with their zone defense to overcome a dismal shooting night when they made just 39 percent of their shots and missed 15 of 41 free throws.

But it proved to be enough to send Syracuse to Washington, D.C., for the East Regional where the Orange will take on the winner of today's game between top-seeded Indiana and Temple on Thursday.

Richard Solomon scored 22 points for the Golden Bears (21-12), who were trying to make it to the round of 16 for the first time in 16 years and just the third time since 1960.

Marquette 74, Butler 72

In Lexington, Ky., Vander Blue scored 19 second-half points to rally third-seeded Marquette out of another hole, and the Golden Eagles survived No. 6 Butler 74-72 on Saturday to reach the round of 16 in the NCAA tournament.

Like November's first meeting between the teams at the Maui Invitational, won 72-71 by Butler on Rotnei Clarke's buzzer-beating 3-pointer, this was a back-and-forth, high-intensity affair that came down to the final shot.

Only this time, Butler missed. Marquette (25-8) will meet the winner of Sunday's game between Illinois and Miami (Fla.) on Thursday in the East Regional semifinals at Washington, D.C.

Blue, who made a last-second layup to beat Davidson in Marquette's first tournament game, scored 29 points.

Clarke's 24 points led Butler (28-9).

After Jamil Wilson's two free throws made it 71-69, Davante

Gardner deflected Clarke's pass intended for Kellen Dunham underneath and then made the first of three late free throws for 74-70 lead with 4.7 seconds left.

After Wilson's goaltend on what would have been a layup by Andrew Smith cut the lead to two 2 seconds later, Blue almost became the goat by throwing away the inbound pass intended for Wilson with 2.9 seconds left.

The Bulldogs, who seem to win every close game at this time of year, couldn't get a good last look. Smith took an off-balance 3 from up top that was way off, slamming into the backboard and setting off another Marquette celebration.

MIDWEST REGIONAL Michigan 78, VCU 53

In Auburn Hills, Michigan, Gary Harris scored 16 of his career-high 23 points in the first half to help third-seeded Michigan State reach the round of 16 for the fifth time in six years.

Michigan State (27-8) will play the winner of the Duke-Creighton game on Friday in the Midwest Regional semifinals at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis.

The Tigers (31-5) advanced in the NCAA tournament for the first time in Josh Pastner's four seasons. The Conference USA champions were eliminated in the third round because they struggled to stop Harris on the outside or his teammates inside all afternoon.

The Spartans' top post players—Adreian Payne and Derrick Nix—combined for 27 points and 18 rebounds.

Oregon 74, Saint Louis 57

In Auburn Hills, Michigan,

Damyean Dotson scored 23 points, Carlos Emory added 14 points and hot-shooting Oregon sprinted past fourth-seeded Saint Louis.

Dotson made his first five 3-pointers to carry the 12th-seeded Ducks (28-8) into the second weekend for the first time since 2007, when they lost to eventual repeat champion Florida in the regional final. Oregon made 8 of 11 shots from beyond the arc, while the Billikens finished 3 for 21 from long range.

Oregon will play No. 1 overall seed Louisville in the Midwest Regional in Indianapolis next. The Cardinals routed Colorado State 82-56 in Lexington, Ky.

Kwamain Mitchell scored 18 points and Dwayne had 16 points and nine rebounds for the Billikens (28-7), who set a school record for wins this season following the death of coach Rick Majerus in December.

Louisville 82, Colorado State 56

In Lexington, Ky., Russ Smith had another big night, leading four players in double figures with 27 points, and top-seeded Louisville is into the Midwest Region semifinals.

The Cardinals put on a defensive clinic as they dismantled Colorado State. Louisville forced the eighth-seeded Rams into a season-high 20 turnovers, made Colton Iverson look as invisible as a 6-foot-10 guy can be and limited one of the nation's best rebounding teams to 24 boards, more than a dozen below their average.

It was the 12th straight win for Louisville (31-5), which will play Oregon on Friday in Indianapolis.

SOUTH REGIONAL Michigan 78, VCU 53

In Auburn Hills, Michigan, Mitch McGary had 21 points and 14 rebounds, and fourth-seeded Michigan breezed through Virginia Commonwealth's vaunted pressure with a clinical performance and advanced to the round of 16 for the first time since 1994.

VCU (27-9) was relentless in a 46-point rout of Akron on Thursday night, but the Rams met their match against Michigan's cool-headed backcourt. Trey Burke and Tim Hardaway Jr. rarely looked rattled against VCU, and although Michigan (28-7) committed 12 turnovers, the Rams couldn't turn many of them into quick scoring opportunities.

McGary, a 6-foot-10 freshman, set season highs in scoring and rebounding.

The 71-point swing by VCU—from a 46-point win to a 25-point loss—was the largest in NCAA tournament history, according to STATS. In 1968, Houston beat Texas Christian 103-68, then lost to UCLA 101-69 for a 67-point swing.

Timothy Bradley boosts his stock with gritty win

By GREG BEACHAM
AP SPORTS WRITER

BOXING CARSON, Calif. (AP)—Timothy Bradley is a two-division world champion and an exemplary citizen. Yet he never sparked much passion in the boxing world.

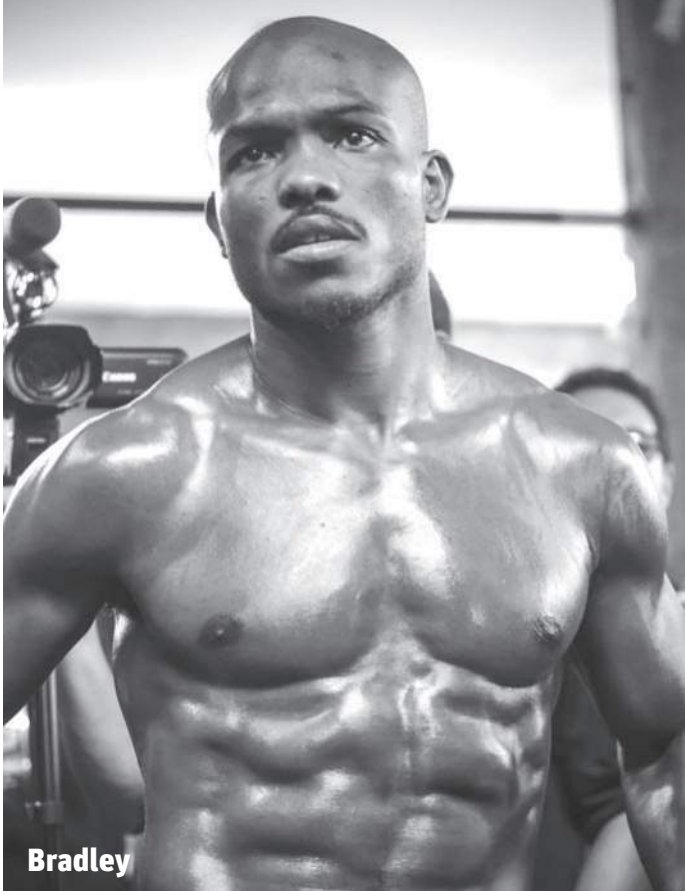
Not until he finished his 30th fight with wobbly legs and glassy eyes Saturday night, barely staying upright to the final bell against Ruslan Provodnikov.

A classy boxer became a raw fighter for one thrilling bout. Once Bradley heals, he could reap the benefits for years.

“The warrior instinct started to come in,” Bradley said in the ring, after guessing he had a concussion. “Just heart and determination, the will to win. Even though I got rocked, I still fight hard. I still come back. That’s just the warrior in me.”

Bruised and bloody, Bradley (30-0) narrowly kept his perfect record and his WBO welter-weight belt, winning a unanimous decision by a tiny margin despite being on the verge of getting stopped in the first, second and 12th rounds, even taking a knee in the waning seconds.

Yet the crowd at the outdoor ten-



nis stadium south of Los Angeles roared through chattering teeth for both fighters, cheering and booing Bradley with a passion he has rarely inspired in the ring.

After the most exciting performance of his career, Bradley is likely to receive much of the

love he was denied after his unconvincing decision over Manny Pacquiao last year. Bradley also made himself exponentially more attractive for a rematch with Pacquiao if a fifth fight with Juan Manuel Marquez falls apart over money disputes.

Top Rank’s Bob Arum, who promotes Pacquiao and Bradley, refused to speculate on Bradley’s next bout immediately after the spectacle of his punishing win.

“Any time you plan something right after a fight, you screw up,” Arum said. “There are plenty of fights to do.”

Marquez and Pacquiao both haven’t announced their next bouts, but Marquez is expected to make a decision in the next few weeks. Bradley has been a nightmare matchup for any big name in recent years because of his meager fame and low action potential, but his win over Provodnikov can’t help altering his image for the better.

Freddie Roach, who trains both Pacquiao and Provodnikov, has scoffed at the idea Pacquiao would grant a rematch to Bradley in the past, saying Bradley can’t sell a ticket and pointing at the first fight’s unimpressive pay-per-view performance. With highlights from Bradley’s win over Provodnikov on the ads for his next bout, it’s tough to imagine Bradley would be an unattractive draw any more.

Roach even complimented Bradley—whose trainer, Joel Diaz, ripped Roach before the fight.

“He’s a very tough guy,” Roach said. “He’s a very good boxer. He’s everything he’s supposed to be. He fought a great fight also.”

Although the fight was close, with the three fighters separated by a total of five points on the three scorecards combined, the judges saw the fight nearly identically.

All three agreed on Provodnikov’s victory in the first, second and sixth rounds, while giving the rest of the first 10 rounds to Bradley. Two judges gave the 11th to Provodnikov, while Raul Caiz Sr. favored Bradley. All three scored the 12th for Provodnikov 10-8, leaving the Russian agonizingly short of a decision.

“I didn’t feel his punches at all,” Provodnikov said through a translator, the area around his left eye bleeding and grotesquely swollen. “He was feeling my punches the whole time. I was going after him all 12 rounds.”

The “Siberian Rocky” nearly closed out Bradley in the final minute, forcing the champion to take a knee under a withering assault that staggered backward into the ropes. But Provodnikov took enormous punishment of his own in the middle rounds, and trainer Freddie Roach strongly considered stopping the fight before Provodnikov started his final run in the 11th.

YOUTH

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mostly veterans, joined the women’s singles B division, but were outclassed by the young guns.

In other results last Friday, Cardinio and Pangilinan also advanced to the women’s doubles B semis after winning over Annette Ta and Windy Fernandez, 21-19, 21-17. Incidentally, Cardinio and Pangilinan will duel Savellano and Obaldo in the finals tonight. Obaldo and Savellano clinched the second finals berth after surviving Marylyn Montano and Cheng Saturno last Saturday, 14-21, 21-14, 22-20.

Also gaining finals seats in the women’s division last Friday were Diane Francisco (singles C) and Lani Bartolome (singles A). Francisco won by default over Lani Santos, while Bartolome slipped past Angie Ito, 17-21, 21-17, 21-18. Bartolome was scheduled to face tournament favorite Hannah Choi in the finals last

Saturday night.

In the men’s singles A, Ferdie Arago took the first finals ticket after eliminating Glenn Blautjens, 21-11, 14-21, 21-10. Arago was set to square off against Andreau Galvez in the title match last night after the latter won the other semis game last Saturday against Jexler Caranto, 21-18, 18-21, 21-19.

Galvez also made it to the finals in the doubles, this time teaming up with Caranto in ousting Arago and Macoi Aguda, 21-19, 21-17. Galvez and Caranto’s finals foes will be the winners of the Sam Jones and Blautjens and Joel Ortega and Saliya Rajapakshe semis tiff.

In the men’s B singles, it will be Jordan Pangilinan versus Josep Santos. Pangilinan marched into the finals after beating Rajapakshe, 21-10, 21-18, while Santos advanced after booting out Mario Diola, 21-14, 14-21, 21-7.

The title games in the Sun Palace tournament will be completed tonight and winners will be recognized in the awards ceremony set for 8:15pm.

AKIMARU

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In the girls’ division, Tsunami Guam’s Roslyn Mikel came in first with her 21:40, followed by Manukai Athletics Guam’s Katelee McCormic (23:02) and SSC Masters’ Carol Lynn Pierce (23:13).

Twenty-eight others joined the one-lap race, including SSC

coaches Mike Villagomez and Jacoby Winkfield.

In the 600m race, 15 completed the shortest event of the day with Tsunami Saipan’s Kenshiro Yanai leading the field with his time of 12:19. Yanai defeated SSC’s Rintaro Miyawaki in the sprint to the finish line, as the latter clocked in at 112:22. Two swimmers completed the 600m race under 13 minutes with Tsunami Saipan’s Juhn Tenorio and

Guam’s Jada Jones submitting identical times of 12:35.

Jones went on to take the first place finish in the girls division, ahead of Akira Kado-kura (13:04).

Other finishers in the 600m race were Chucky White (13:30), Jinnosuke Suzuki (13:34), Coume Kaga (13:44), Maria Silvestre (13:46), Louis Henley (14:32), Carlos Poppe (15:14), Taiyo Akimaru (15:35),

Israel Poppe (15:43), Richard Villagomez (16:07), and Hans Xu (16:29).

Meanwhile, in the 2.5K swim, Tsunami Saipan’s Kensuke Kimura headed to the finish line with two other visiting swimmers from Guam, while SSC’s Victoria Chentsova won in the women’s field. Times for both the men’s and women’s divisions in the two-lap race were unavailable at press time.

Meanwhile, the Division A finals between SSFM and Docomo also took place last Saturday and results of the title match will be reported in *Saipan Tribune’s* Tuesday edition.

Adobo 66 – Deleon Guerrero 20, Vertudez 13, Saturno 12, Mamaril 9, Yap 2, Orejola 2, Dela Cruz 2, Camacho 2.

Gualo Rai/Morales 62 – Factor 20, Ibanes 16, Yap 12, Cayading 8, Galulu 3, Deleon Guerrero 2, Dayrit 1.

Scoring by quarters: 16-11, 29-24, 48-40, 66-62.

Vertudez and Saturno also finished in twin digits with 13 and 12, markers respectively. The trio teamed up in Adobo’s 10-0 run in the first quarter and from there Gualo Rai/Morales played catch up all night and fell short in the end.

Factor paced Gualo Rai/Morales with his 20 markers, while Marlou Ibanez and Yap chipped in 16 and 12, respectively. Gualo Rai/Morales played in the finals without Jun Fidelino, who scored 17 points in the team’s semis upset over Chinatown, 77-62.

However, that was the closest that Gualo Rai/Morales and time was not on its side, as the eventual runner-up was forced to give up preemptive fouls after two botched plays in the remaining minute of the match. Vertudez was fouled twice and went 3-for-4, while Saturno had a split, putting Adobo on top by 6 points, 66-60, with less than 20 seconds left on the clock. A Prince Factor undergoal stab pegged the final score, with 3.4 seconds left in the title game.

Deleon Guerrero top-scored for Adobo with 20 points, while

and Hugo in the Top 5 were South Africa’s Bradley Weiss (2:36:06), former XTERRA Guam champion Sam Gardner (2:37:48) and Scotland’s Rory Downie (2:39:4).

Slack tops women’s field

Duplicating Allen’s win last weekend was girlfriend Jacqui Slack of United Kingdom.

Slack also finished the XTERRA Guam under three hours, submitting 2:52:44.

The victory was a big leap for Slack, who placed only third in

her XTERRA Guam debut with a time of 3:07:10.

Also having a good race last weekend was XTERRA Saipan third finisher Renata Bucher, who came in at second with a time of 2:55:35. Joining the Top 2 finishers in the podium were Austria’s Carina Wasle (3:01:05), United Kingdom’s Daz Parker (3:06:33), Guam’s Mieke Carey (3:12:59), Australia’s Peri Gray (3:22:27), and Japan’s Yasuko Miyazaki (3:40:00).

Slack was the first female out of the water with her 21:22, more than a minute ahead of

Gray (22:39) and at least two-minutes faster than the rest of the women’s pro field. Bucher then shaved off about one minute from Slack’s lead after the former recorded the fastest split time in the bike (1:39:4) and later had the second best in the women’s field at 1:40:42. However, XTERRA Saipan champion Slack regained the lead she lost in the run leg and foiled Bucher’s bid for at least one victory in the XTERRA Asia Tour after tallying 49:43 (women’s best) in the run leg. Bucher logged 50:47 in the run race.

ADOBO

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gave Adobo more distance, 59-50, midway in the final period.

Despite facing a 9-point deficit, Gualo Rai/Morales refused to give up and launched a short 8-2 run. Mike Yap and Justin Cayading converted a triple apiece, while Joseph Galulu made a floater and after Gualo Rai/Morales’ three straight baskets, Adobo answered with only two free throws from Mamaril.

ALLEN

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With Allen and Hugo neck-and-neck after the two legs, the 8.2K trail run became the deciding factor and the Aussie proved to be the much stronger athlete in the last part of the race after timing in at 39:22, about four minutes faster than Hugo’s 43:07. Hugo had a combined time of 2:26:48 for the South African’s third straight bridesmaid finish in the XTERRA Asia Tour. Joining Allen

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES		
ARNOLD PALMER INVITATIONAL SCORES		
ORLANDO, Florida (AP) — Scores Saturday in the Arnold Palmer Invitational, a US PGA Tour event at the 7,419-yard, par-72 Bay Hill Club and Lodge:		
THIRD ROUND		
Tiger Woods	69-70-66	—205
Rickie Fowler	73-67-67	—207
John Huh	67-69-71	—207
Justin Rose	65-70-72	—207
Thorbjorn Olesen	69-73-66	—208
Gonzalo Fernandez-Castano	69-71-68	—208
Jimmy Walker	69-69-70	—208
Ken Duke	70-68-70	—208
Bill Haas	69-66-73	—208
Keegan Bradley	74-69-66	—209
Mark Wilson	71-68-70	—209
Brian Stuard	74-69-67	—210
Brad Fritsch	68-72-70	—210
Henrik Stenson	71-71-69	—211
Ian Poulter	72-69-70	—211
Hunter Mahan	71-70-70	—211
John Rollins	68-72-71	—211
Ben Kohles	69-73-70	—212
Ben Curtis	72-70-70	—212
Matt Every	72-75-66	—213
Cameron Tringale	72-73-68	—213
Jason Day	71-74-68	—213
John Senden	71-72-70	—213
Luke Guthrie	73-67-73	—213
Sean O'Hair	69-76-69	—214
Scott Brown	74-71-69	—214
Erik Compton	72-72-70	—214
Billy Horschel	72-73-69	—214
William McGirt	74-70-70	—214
Sergio Garcia	72-69-73	—214
Vijay Singh	71-68-75	—214
J.J. Henry	71-67-76	—214
Martin Laird	74-73-68	—215
Zach Johnson	70-76-69	—215
Kevin Streelman	74-71-70	—215
Camilo Villegas	71-74-70	—215
Vaughn Taylor	71-74-70	—215
Carl Pettersson	72-72-71	—215
Ben Crane	70-74-71	—215
Richard H. Lee	73-70-72	—215
Chris Kirk	71-72-72	—215
Retief Goosen	73-69-73	—215
Charles Howell III	73-69-73	—215
Matt Jones	71-70-74	—215
Bob Estes	71-69-75	—215
Johnson Wagner	76-71-69	—216
George Coetzee	73-74-69	—216
David Toms	74-72-70	—216
Josh Teater	75-71-70	—216
Pat Perez	71-75-70	—216
Francesco Molinari	75-71-70	—216
David Lingmerth	71-74-71	—216
Gary Woodland	70-73-73	—216
Sang-Moon Bae	71-69-76	—216
David Hearn	75-71-71	—217
Lee Janzen	73-73-71	—217
Nick Watney	69-76-72	—217
Bubba Watson	74-71-72	—217
Tag Ridings	70-74-73	—217
Chris Stroud	72-71-74	—217
Greg Owen	74-73-71	—218
Lee Westwood	71-75-72	—218
Ryo Ishikawa	69-77-72	—218
Graham DeLaet	76-69-73	—218
Boo Weekley	72-70-76	—218
Chad Campbell	77-67-75	—219
Stewart Cink	70-73-76	—219
Charlie Beljan	76-71-73	—220
Harris English	75-72-73	—220
Jim Furyk	71-74-75	—220
Robert Allenby	73-74-74	—221
Graeme McDowell	72-74-75	—221
Nicholas Thompson	74-72-75	—221
Justin Hicks	74-71-77	—222
Tommy Gainey	72-73-77	—222
Doug LaBelle II	73-73-77	—223
Rod Perry	76-71-78	—225
Mike Weir	76-70-70	—225

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Settsu-Saipan tourney tips off Wednesday

By **WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND**
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 REPORTER



The Basketball Association of the Northern Mariana Islands will be hosting anew its 2013 Settsu-Saipan Friendship Basketball Tournament at the Marianas High School Gymnasium from Wednesday, March 26, through Thursday, March 28.

The event features the Settsu Red Impulse Basketball Club from Osaka, Japan as the special guests of honor who are once again visiting the islands in the name of basketball goodwill and BANMI's continued development efforts.

This year the Settsu Red Impulse men's team is offering a completely new and "loaded" roster for their boy's team as communicated in a BANMI press release on Friday.

In addition, the best 18 and under high school male and female student athletes in the CNMI as selected by their coaches will also be showcasing their skills.

Other participating teams include the two-time Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization boys champion Stallions of Tinian High School and the three-time girls champion MHS Lady Dolphins along with a quartet of all star teams from MISO and Coalition of Private School Sports Association.

Notably, the defending champion Lady Red Impulse team is unable to make it over this year.

The MISO all-stars include players from MHS, Saipan



Marianas High School special guest player Mizuki Iwasaki drives to the basket against Red Impulse's Kanao Saeki in the 2012 girls finals last year at the MHS Gymnasium.

Southern High School, and Kagman High School, while the COPSA grouping consists students from Mount Carmel School, Eucon International School, Grace Christian Academy, Agape Christian School, and Saipan International School.

Last year, Settsu's Lady Red Impulse group shined in a 69-38 upset over the top seeded Lady Dolphins, while the MISO all-stars topped the boys bracket over the KHS Ayuyus, 90-58.

Entrance is free to the public and parents. Family members and

basketball enthusiasts are also encouraged to come and watch.

A raffle drawing will also be held for a chance to enter in a promotional halftime contest tickets for some great prizes; tickets cost \$1 each.

Proceeds raised will go to benefit MHS Productions who endured an unfortunate burglary incident several months ago and had its equipment stolen.

BANMI organizers are also holding a Happy Hour Appreciation and Gathering on March 29 from 6pm to 9:30pm at Pose-

idon Bar & Grill located next to Hyatt Regency Saipan, across American Memorial Park.

MHS Productions will also document the tournament.

Tournament coordinator and director Gabriel White added that "MHS Productions has been as integral part of the SS-FBT since the very beginning in 2009 and also for our sport. They have filmed every Settsu Tournament every year. They have done a lot for our major basketball season events, such as filming the 2009 FIBA

Oceania Tournament, and every MISO basketball season. They record our basketball history and [BANMI] would like to show our sincere gratitude and appreciation by giving back to MHS Productions for all of the wonderful hard work they do not only for the tournament, but for basketball in the NMI."

According to the event schedule, Day 1 begins with a special work out conducted by Get Fit CNMI, LLC Instructor Jose T. Quan from 10:45am to 11:45am at the Oleai Sports Complex track & field followed by a Players Clinic conducted by BANMI national development officer Elias Rangamar from 3pm to 5pm at MHS Gym.

The games begin on Wednesday, March 27 after

the 3pm opening ceremony and run to 8pm.

Thursday will utilize the same playing window as games will be played under 10-minute halves with running time.

The ladies finals are scheduled for March 28 at 4:30pm followed by the boys championship at 6pm.

Title sponsors for the tourney include the Division of Youth Services, Lantech Co. Ltd. (Japan), and the Tan Siu Lin Foundation as well as NTT Docomo Pacific, Joeten Superstore, Rep. Edmund Vilagomez (Cov-Saipan), KKMP 1440AM/92.1FM, KSPN2, All-Star Sporting Goods, The Athlete's Foot, Marianas Fat Food Inc., KFC/Taco Bell, and the Marianas Visitor Authority.

28 take part in 2013 Taga Kids



Twenty-eight youngsters ages 5-14 turned out on March 16 for the 2013 Taga Kids Triathlon, held in conjunction with the 24th Annual Tagaman Triathlon in Saipan.

The young competitors triumphed over the swim-bike-run course under the tropical sun at American Memorial Park.

Topping the age 6-8 male category were 8-year-old Rintaro Miyawaki (20:45.32), 8-year-old Akira Kadokura (21:35.36), and 7-year-old Taiyo Akimaru (23:04.50). For the females, it was 8-year-old Coume Kaga (23:51.44), 7-year-old Soleil

Lamar (23:53.46), and 8-year-old Ayaka Sato (30:28.15).

For the age 9-12 male category, 9-year-old Lennosuke Suzuki (40:13.53) finished first, followed by 12-year-old David Boyer-Roberto, Jr. (40:47.80), and 9-year-old Blake Mister (41:41.67). The females were led by 9-year-old Conatsu Kaga (43:55.82), 10-year-old Jin Ju Thompson (47:43.61), and 10-year-old Sami Nimura (55:07.99).

Fourteen-year-old Angel Marie Tan was the lone competitor in the 13-15 age category, finishing the long course in 1:00:37. (PR)



Coach Elias Rangamar of Northern Mariana Athletics explains the swim course to competitors in the 2013 Taga Kids Triathlon last March 16.

Fiesta Resort upsets IT&E Voyagers

By **WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND**
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 REPORTER



Joe's Steakhouse Fiesta Resort & Spa upset erstwhile frontrunner IT&E Voyagers, 10-5, in a road match at SOS Bar & Grill, casing the three-time champion IT&E squad to make room atop the six-team division as the Saipan Billiards Association's 2013 Budweiser 8-Ball Tuesday League concluded its fifth round last week.

Both teams now hold identical win-loss records of 51-24.

In addition, Docomo Pacific's Hustlers (48-27), out of Wild Bill's Bar & Grill, survived Equalizers 1 (21-54), 8-7, in a road match at Bammy's Restaurant & Bar and Poseidon Bar & Grill's Crazy 8 (39-36) was gifted a forfeit win via a no show by Bammy's Triggers 1 (15-60).

Thursday standings lists Poseidon's Hustlers (54-21) leading SOS's Blue Haus Home Boyz (47-28), The Waterfront's Jager-nauts (42-33), Bammy's Equalizers 2 (38-37), The Waterfront's Eagles (37-38), Jonny's Bar & Grill's Team Saipan



Joe's Steakhouse Fiesta Resort & Spa, seen here posing for a group photo, defeated IT&E Voyagers at SOS Bar & Grill last week in the 2013 Budweiser 8-Ball Tuesday League.

Computer Services (37-38), Wild Bill's Shark Attack (34-41) and Bammy's Triggers 2 (11-64). Matchups details were not provided.

Tomorrow night's Tuesday Week 6 matchups include

Equalizers 1 hosting Crazy 8, Fiesta Resort & Spa setting up for the Docomo Hustlers, and the IT&E Voyagers waving in Triggers 1.

Thursday's Week 6 pairing list Sharks Atta preparing for

the Jager-nauts, Equalizers 2 hailing over the Hustlers, Team SCS welcoming Triggers 2, and the Eagles inviting in the Blue Haus Home Boyz.

For more information, visit www.pacificamusement.com.

VCP Grassroots Beach Volleyball clinic set



The Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association, in conjunction with the Federation International De Volleyball (FIVB), is holding a VCP Grassroots Beach Volleyball clinic at Fiesta Resort & Spa and Marianas High School Gymnasium from April 3 to April 7.

The course is free and open to the public. Weekly sessions take place from 4pm to 9pm with weekend sessions from 8am to 5pm.

According to the FIVB website, the course is designed for national federations, or simply beach volleyball enthusiasts will-

ing to further develop the sport in their respective countries.

The course provides insight into the world of beach volleyball and teaches fundamental issues such as how to create and organize competitions.

In addition to defining necessary beach volleyball structure, the course also covers the latest rules and regulations.

An update course outline and schedule will be available soon at www.nmivolleyball.org.

For more information or to make a reservation, email training.programs@nmivolleyball.org or nmivolleyball@gmail.com. (Walter Cepeda Sutherland)



Nuggets win 15th straight, 101-95 over Kings
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Saipan Tribune Sports



Wichita St.'s 3-pointers boot No. 1 Gonzaga, 76-70
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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Akimaru wins again; Yanai prevails



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Participants in the 1.5-kilometer race in yesterday's 35th Annual SSC Ocean Swim in the waters off Susupe head to the course.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Saipan Swim Club's Kento Akimaru notched back-to-back wins after topping the 1.3-kilometer race in yesterday's 35th Annual SSC Ocean Swim in the waters off Susupe.



Akimaru, who ruled the same race last year with a time of 19:46.70, also broke the 20-minute barrier again after completing the second longest race of the day in 20:02. The 12-year-old SSC swimmer was already out of the water and racing to the shore, while Tsunami Saipan's Hiroto Yanai was just getting up, trying to catch him, but failed, settling for a runner-up finish with a time of 20:15.

Joining Akimaru and Yanai in the Top 3 was Manhoben Guam's Santiago Poppe, who clocked in at 21:07.

See AKIMARU on Page 26

Allen completes Triple Crown

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Ben Allen conquered XTERRA Asia's Triple Crown anew after winning last Saturday's XTERRA Guam Championship.

Allen, who ruled XTERRA Philippines and XTERRA Saipan, completed the last leg of the XTERRA Asia Tour in 2:23:01, shattering his 2012 winning time (2:29:42). The victory in Guam was also the Aussie's fourth in a row this month alone, as he also triumphed in the 2013 Tagaman Triathlon on March 16.

"Many thanks to family,

friends and sponsors for always believing in me. Four races, four wins, Triple Crown champion," Allen wrote in his Facebook account.

The back-to-back XTERRA Asia Tour winner got off to a good start in Guam when he finished the 1.5-kilometer swim in the waters of Piti with a best time of 19:06, six seconds ahead of eventual runner-up Dan Hugo (19:02). Hugo went on to stay close with Allen after the former posted the fastest time in the 31K MTB race at 1:23:26 against the 1:23:29 (second overall) of the latter.

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WWW.XTERRAPLANET.COM

Couple Ben Allen and Jacqui Slack flash the No. 1 sign after ruling last Saturday's XTERRA Guam.

Adobo clinches Division B crown Youth prevails in women's singles B

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Adobo capped its perfect season with a 66-62 title win over Gualo Rai/Morales in Division B of the 2013 DLX/Anchor Strong Invitational Basketball League last Saturday at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Adobo withstood Gualo Rai/Morales' repeated comeback bids to clinch the division crown and win all its 11 games in the competition.

Shane Deleon Guerrero delivered the rally halting baskets for Adobo, while Genesis Mamaril and Lester Vertudez put the finishing touches in the championship victory.

Deleon Guerrero anchored a 9-2 run that put Adobo out of trouble after Gualo Rai/Morales moved within 2 points early in the fourth canto, 48-50. Deleon Guerrero scored 6 straight points in that rally, while Mamaril canned a big triple that

See ADOBO on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Adobo's Shane Deleon Guerrero drives and draws a foul on Gualo Rai/Morales' Justin Cayading during the third quarter of their Division B title game in the DLX/Anchor Strong caging last Saturday at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



The women's singles B division of the Sun Palace Hotel Singles and Doubles Badminton Competition 2013 was an all-youth affair with U18 players making it to the semifinals.

In the first semis match last Friday at the TSL Sports Complex, Janelle Pangilinan swept fellow youth player Jen Cardinio, 21-18, 21-8. Both are members of the Community Badminton Club, a group composed of U18 players.

Pangilinan goes for the women's B singles crown today against Jen Savellano, another U18 player who notched the second finals berth in her division after ousting Cris Obaldo in the other semis pairing last Saturday, 21-17, 21-18. Obaldo and Cardinio also collide tonight for the third place honor.

Six others players, who are

See YOUTH on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Youth player Jen Savellano steps forward to return a shot to Cris Obaldo during their semis game in the women's singles B division of the Sun Palace badminton tournament last Saturday at the TSL Sports Complex.